



**HARRISON FORD
ON BECOMING
HAN SOLO!**



**ANGRY BIRDS
STAR WARS**

**TAKE FLIGHT
INSIDE!**

STAR WARS

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EXCLUSIVE

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ON THE FUTURE

INTERVIEW!

LUCAS

KENNEDY

OF STAR WARS

PLUS!

**BOBA FETT
TIMOTHY ZAHN
CELEBRATION VI**



TITAN

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"What're you lookin' at? I know what I'm doin'."—Han Solo, *Star Wars*, 1977

As the team were putting together this issue of *Star Wars Insider*, we quickly came to realize that a certain Corellian was taking over! The first sign that Han Solo was in charge was when an old, never-before-run interview with his alter ego, Harrison Ford, was sent to us by Lucasfilm.

Then, the friendly folk at Del Rey told us all about Timothy Zahn's latest novel, *Scoundrels*, a fantastic heist yarn which features Han, Chewbacca, and the ever-so suave Lando Calrissian. We even have a fantastic short story, again by Zahn, that serves as a great teaser for the new book.

Han also turns up as an Angry Bird—AKA Chuck "Ham" Solo—in the blockbusting (in more ways than one) game, proving that there's life in the old pirate yet! We even take a look at his trusty blaster, as a part of Catherine Taber's (the voice of Padmé) guide to the greatest side arms in the *Star Wars* galaxy!

For those of you missing the heady days of the summer just passed, we've taken an exclusive look back at Celebration VI through the eyes of three very special attendees.

If you were at the convention, then you may well have seen the spectacular art of Tsuneo Sanda on display. His stunning artwork also features—among others—in the new book *Star Wars Art: Illustration*, so it's the perfect time to quiz him on his distinctive take on the *Star Wars* universe.

Just as this issue was going to press, we heard the surprise news that Disney had bought Lucasfilm, and that an all-new *Star Wars* movie trilogy is scheduled to begin in theaters in 2015 with more films to follow! Write in to the address on the left with your thoughts on the new trilogy, and we'll print the best!

May the Force be with you... Always.

Jonathan Wilkins

Jonathan Wilkins,
Editor

STAR WARS

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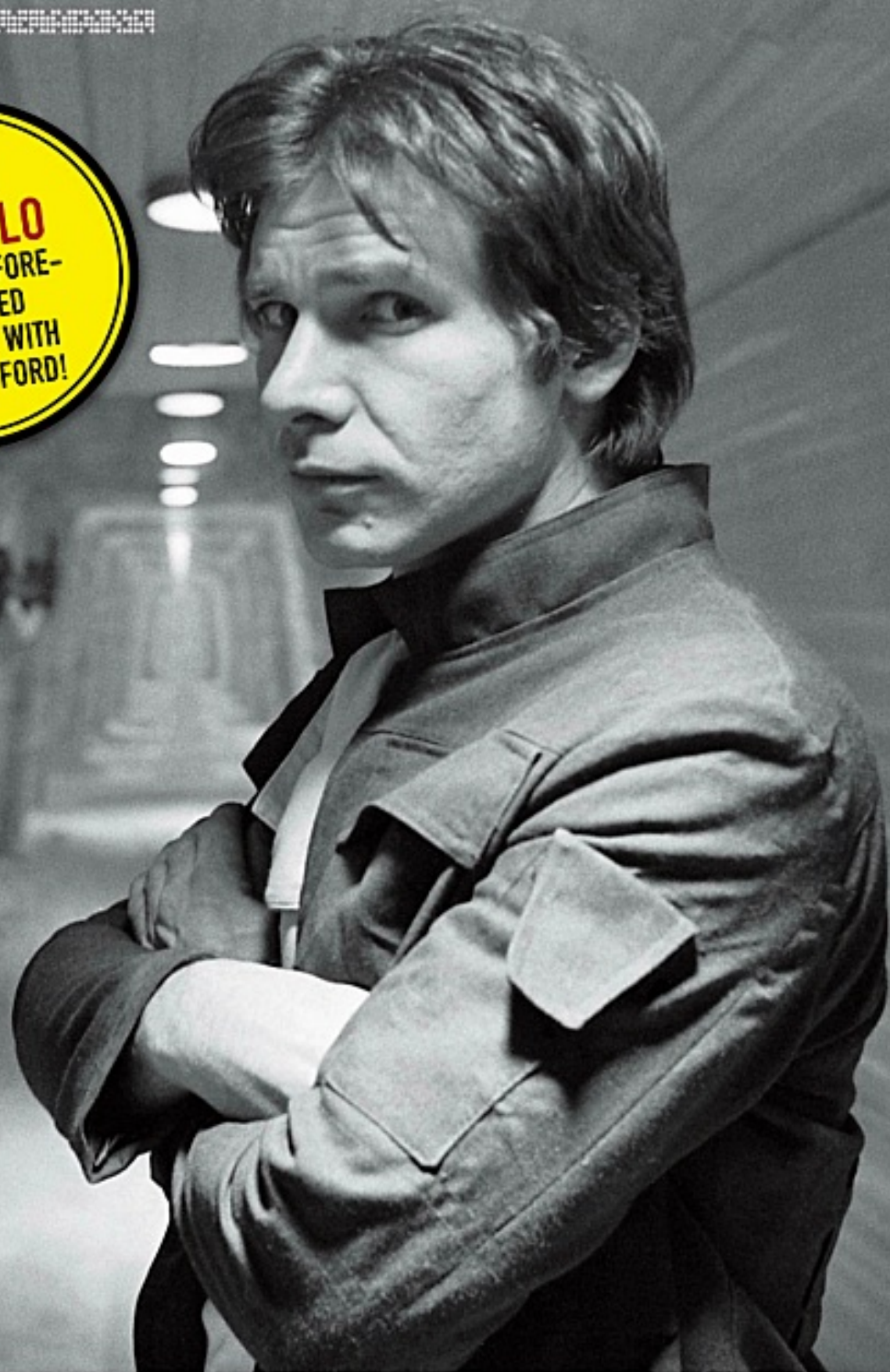
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LAUNCH PAD

THE LATEST UPDATES FROM THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE

A NEW STAR WARS TRILOGY APPROACHES AS DISNEY ENTERS AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE LUCASFILM LTD.

On October 30, the Internet was ablaze with chatter about a seismic announcement in the world of *Star Wars*. The big screen cinematic saga would continue with new movies, and the Walt Disney Company entered an agreement to acquire Lucasfilm Ltd. from George Lucas. Backed by the global reach and brand stewardship strengths of Disney, the future of *Star Wars* is now under the direction of acclaimed film producer and studio executive Kathleen Kennedy, co-chairman of Lucasfilm. Kennedy and Disney plan a slate of new *Star Wars* feature films, beginning with the long-awaited *Star Wars: Episode VII*, targeted for release in 2015, followed by Episodes VIII and IX. Additional feature films beyond this trilogy are expected to continue the saga and grow the franchise well into the future.

"For the past 35 years, one of my greatest pleasures has been to see *Star Wars* passed from one generation to the next," said George Lucas. "It's now time for me to pass *Star Wars* on to a new generation of filmmakers. I've always believed that *Star Wars* could live beyond me, and I thought it was important to set up the transition during my lifetime. I'm confident that with Lucasfilm under the leadership of Kathleen Kennedy, and having a new home within the Disney organization, *Star Wars* will certainly live on and flourish for many generations to come. Disney's strength gives Lucasfilm the opportunity to blaze new trails in film, television, interactive media, theme parks, live entertainment, and consumer products."

The acquisition has Lucasfilm and its creative works and operations enter into Disney's global portfolio of world-class brands that include Pixar and Marvel. "Lucasfilm reflects the extraordinary passion, vision, and storytelling of its founder, George Lucas," said Robert A. Iger, chairman and chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company. "This transaction combines a world-class portfolio of content including *Star Wars*, one of the greatest family entertainment franchises of all time,



Disney chairman and CEO Robert Iger buys Lucasfilm from George Lucas.

© Disney. Photo by Rick Rowell

STOP PRESS!

MICHAEL ARNDT TO WRITE SCREENPLAY FOR STAR WARS: EPISODE VII

As preproduction of *Star Wars: Episode VII* begins, Lucasfilm has confirmed that award-winning writer Michael Arndt will write the screenplay for the new *Star Wars* film. As revealed in the ongoing

video series posted on *StarWars.com*, Kathleen Kennedy and George Lucas have begun story conferences with Arndt. Arndt won an Academy Award® for Best Original Screenplay for writing *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006), and was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay for writing *Toy Story 2* (2010). For more news about *Star Wars: Episode VII*— slated for a 2015 release—keep reading *Star Wars Insider*!

with Disney's unique and unparalleled ability to leverage creativity across multiple platforms, businesses, and markets to generate sustained growth and drive significant long-term value."

Kathleen Kennedy, current co-chairman of Lucasfilm, will become president of Lucasfilm, reporting to Walt Disney Studios Chairman Alan Horn. Additionally, she will serve as the brand manager for *Star Wars*, working directly with Disney's global lines of business to build, further integrate, and maximize the value of this global franchise. Kennedy will serve as executive producer on new *Star Wars* feature films, with George Lucas serving as creative consultant. The acquisition combines two highly compatible family entertainment brands, and strengthens the long-standing beneficial relationship between them that includes

successful integration of *Star Wars* content into Disney theme parks in Anaheim, Orlando, Paris, and Tokyo.

Under the deal, Disney will acquire ownership of Lucasfilm, a leader in entertainment, innovation, and technology, and its operating businesses in live-action film production, consumer products, videogames, animation, visual effects, and audio postproduction. Disney will also acquire the portfolio of cutting-edge entertainment technologies that have kept audiences enthralled for decades. The intent is for Lucasfilm employees to remain in their current locations.

The acquisition has been agreed upon by the boards of directors of both companies, and is undergoing customary regulatory review and should be complete within a few months of the announcement.

DARTH TO THE DOCTOR!

What TV shows do you watch in your free time? My wife and I love Doctor Who. We've really into the David Tennant episodes, though Christopher Eccleston (the previous actor to play the Doctor) was great as well. I just watched the new Doctor, Matt Smith. It's very different, but also very good. None of the Doctors have been the same, which is kind of compelling. It's a fantastic series.

David Tennant is a Star Wars fan. You could get him to do a voiceover as The Clone Wars.

Oh, is he? Wow. Well, you never know. That's not a bad idea!



we've gotten progressively better at it under George's tutelage. We're

DOCTOR'S ORDERS!

Readers of the Star Wars blog at starwars.com will have noticed Pablo Hidalgo alluding to an amazing guest star in the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* episode, "A Test of Strength." He was, of course, referring to none other than former Doctor Who, David Tennant, who plays Huyang, the kindly droid! *Insider* even recommended him to *The Clone Wars* supervising director (and proud Whovian) Dave Filoni back in 2011 (left)!



TOY STORY!

Out now from Chronicle Books (U.S.) and Titan Books (U.K.), we've got three copies of *Star Wars Insider* Icon (see last issue) Steve Sansweet's latest book, *Star Wars: The Ultimate Toy Collection*. Simply send your details to the address on page 3 by February 10 to get in on a chance to win a copy.



This star base in the Carida system is the site of an important Republic fleet strategy conference in "Point of No Return." Artist Pat Presley based this design on the starport seen in the updated *Star Tours: The Adventures Continue* attraction.



EXCLUSIVE CONCEPT ART



From Supervising Director Dave Filoni's sketchbook: The droids of D-Squad wander the endless wastes of Abafar after a shuttle crash in the episode "A Sunny Day in the Void."



Chris Glenn illustrates this aerial view of a Pons Ora mining facility docking bay on the bizarre world of Abafar, seen in the episode "Missing in Action."



LUCASFILM SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL

On October 5th, the first annual Lucasfilm Sidewalk Art Festival was held between buildings A and B of the Letterman Digital Arts Center in the San Francisco Presidio, home to Lucasfilm. Lucasfilm employees created magic on the sidewalks, presenting images ranging from The Well of the Souls in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* to an amazing portrait of George Lucas. First place in the *Star Wars* category was taken by a charming image of Admiral Ackbar in a fishbowl with the classic line, "It's a trap" floating alongside him (above!).

MOST DEVOTED FANBASES REVEALED?

Vulture.com published their list of the 25 Most Devoted Fanbases, a list featuring an array of notable sci-fi and fantasy genres, but their number one choice may surprise you.

At number 20 is Celebration VI guest Kevin Smith, with *Star Wars* at 2. Hang on! *Star Wars* at 2? You read that right, *Game of Thrones* takes the number 1 slot above *Star Wars*.

LAUNCH PAD



SLOTS OF FUN

Feeling ready to take out the Death Star? International Game Technology's (IGT) all new *Star Wars* Trilogy video slots can help. The game allows for group play, so players can engage in an all-out assault on the Death Star while gathering credits in the Battle of Yavin group bonus round.

This follows hot on the heels of IGT's Droid Hunt video slots, which brought *Star Wars* fans to the casino floor to relive their favorite moments.

DROID INVASION

It's the holiday gift every fan wants, and, thanks to our friends at Hasbro, we have an amazing *Star Wars* Multi-Troop Transport Droid Carrier to give away to one lucky reader!

Just like the vehicles that deployed wave after wave of battle droids for the Battle of Naboo, this massive Multi-Troop Transport vehicle's forward hatch opens and releases the motorized troop deployment rack, which can hold the 16 battle-posed infantry droid figures! Side hatches open to reveal racks for 20 blasters. Four pilot droid figures complete the Trade Federation MTT vehicle's crew, but also included is an Obi-Wan Kenobi figure! The electronic battle and droid sounds will make the action all the more intense! The Gungans in your home could get pasted if you write in to the address on page 3!



SPEC WARS

What ocularly challenged *Star Wars* fan wouldn't want to get these official *Star Wars* glasses from Japanese eyewear manufacturer Aigan.

They come in five different designs, each inspired by a character from the saga: Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker, R2-D2, Boba Fett, and a stormtrooper. Each comes safely protected by an eyewear case, which is covered in unique *Star Wars* graphics with the phrase "May The Force Be With You" on the inside.

DROID UNDER FIRE!

Scientists have built a robot based on C-3PO to fight fires on board warships!

If you are a member of the United States Navy then you might be seeing one of your favorite *Star Wars* characters more often, but it's unlikely he'll be serving as a protocol droid.

The U.S. Navy has developed a robot based loosely on the golden droid to put out fires onboard military vessels. Named ASH (Autonomous Shipboard Humanoid), the robot will operate in smoke-filled environments, climb ladders, pass through narrow corridors, and react to human gestures while putting out ship-board fires.

The robot is being developed by scientists at RoMeLa (Robotics & Mechanisms Laboratory) at Virginia Tech University, who are working with the US Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C. on the project.



Professor Dennis Hong Virginia Tech explained, "It is walking now and will start testing on a Navy ship early next year, but that does not mean that it is complete. It still needs a lot of things done, such as protection against heat, sensors, navigation, and other fire-fighting behaviors."

So while ASH is still some way from being the complete article—much like the protocol droid in *The Phantom Menace*—his hand and sensor coordination is a breakthrough in robot technology. Here's hoping he's not as fussy as his onscreen counterpart!

DIGITAL DAVIS!

Want to have Warwick Davis (Wicket) in your pocket? PocketWarwick is the app for you. Available for free download from the Apple App Store and now on Android, PocketWarwick is a freemium game, meaning it's free to download with in-app purchases.

The game features over 350 unique tasks written by Warwick himself and will continue to be updated with new tasks and items in the in-game shop.

Looking after PocketWarwick involves sending him to auditions for movies such as *Back Splash*,



Small Runnings, *Low Noon*, and *Admission Impossible*. He goes to charity events, personal appearances, and other jobs, all with the aim of taking over the entertainment business.

Successful auditions and roles earn coins, XP points, and royalties, and move PocketWarwick from a Z-lister to a potential A-lister. The coins buy items in-game, customizations and improvements to his environment, as well as items needed for future auditions.



IN OUR GALAXY

Want to know what your *Star Wars* acting favorites are up to while outside the galaxy far, far away? Look no further, because here's all the info you need.



Qui-Gon Jinn AKA Liam Neeson, who was recently back in action in *Taken 2*, has embarked on three new projects: *A Walk Among the Tombstones*, *Non-Stop*, and *The Third Person*.



His Padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi, better known as Ewan McGregor, is currently in postproduction on Bryan Singer's *Jack the Giant Slayer*.



Warwick Davis is appearing in pantomime in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* in Wimbledon over the holiday season.



Everybody's favorite scruffy looking nerf herder, Harrison Ford, is especially busy. Next up is Jackie Robinson biopic 42, followed by *Paranoia* with Gary Oldman, and the eagerly awaited *Ender's Game*.



Oscar-winning Queen of Naboo, Natalie Portman, has *Knight of Cups* awaiting release, and is reportedly working on not one, but two untitled Terrence Malick Projects, as well as currently shooting *Thor: The Dark World*.



The one and only Carrie Fisher is appearing in a television movie, *It's Christmas, Carol!* while her onscreen sibling, Mark Hamill, has a glut of projects on the go: *Metacocalypse*, *Motorcity*, *Sushi Girl*, *Dragons: Riders of Berk*, *The Halloween Pranksta*, and *Virtually Heroes* are all on the horizon.



And keeping it in the family, the voice of Darth Vader, James Earl Jones, is appearing in a hugely successful run of *Driving Miss Daisy* with Angela Lansbury.

Meanwhile, back in San Francisco, Industrial Light & Magic is preparing to blow all of us away with VFX work on *Cloud Atlas*, *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, *The Great Gatsby*, the hugely anticipated *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Pacific Rim*, and *Noah*.

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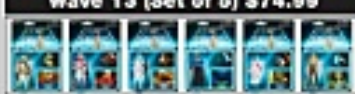


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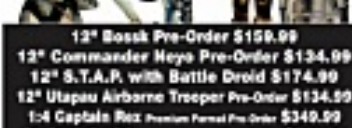
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INSIDER EXCLUSIVE!

FOLLOWING OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH CARRIE FISHER AND MARK HAMILL (*INSIDER* ISSUES 136 AND 137), WE PRESENT ANOTHER GEM FROM THE ARCHIVES! THIS ISSUE, HARRISON FORD CHATS WITH CHARLES (CHARLEY) LIPPINCOTT, LUCASFILM VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING AND MERCHANDISING. LIKE THE PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS, IT TOOK PLACE JUST MONTHS BEFORE THE *STAR WARS* PHENOMENON BEGAN, IN JANUARY 1977! IN THE INTERVIEW, FORD REFLECTS ON THE CHARACTER, WORKING WITH GEORGE LUCAS, AND MORE!

ON INTERVIEWS

Charles Lippincott: I think people are really trying to figure you out. You go in there and are very quiet; you're there laid-back, ironic.

Harrison Ford: Maybe we could do these shows together and you could sit on my lap and hold my hand. You do the talking and I'll move my lips. Sometimes I've wound up throwing food at interviewers. Don't worry. I'm past that point now.

ON GEORGE LUCAS

Lippincott: Did George ever talk about *Star Wars* when you worked on *American Graffiti*?

Ford: No. George didn't talk at all when we worked on *Graffiti*.

Lippincott: Does he talk more now?

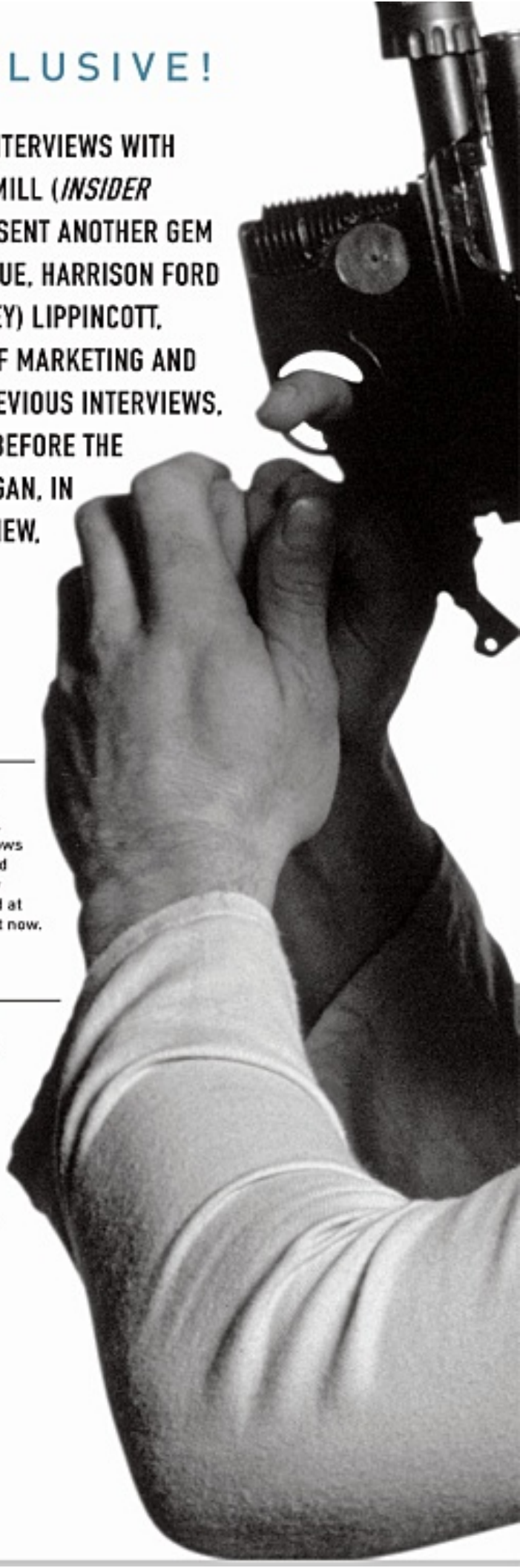
Ford: Not much.

Lippincott: You don't think he's gotten any more gregarious?

Ford: No, I don't think so. I don't see any change in George after his success.

Lippincott: What about the way he worked?

Ford: It's relatively the same.







Main image, right: Harrison Ford as Han Solo takes control.

Left, top: A publicity shot for *The Empire Strikes Back*, with Chewie (Peter Mayhew), C-3PO (Anthony Daniels), and R2-D2 (Kenny Baker).



Middle, Auditioning with Terri Nunn (later to find fame with the pop group, Berlin). Note the back of George Lucas' head on the right of shot.

Bottom: The cast of *A New Hope* pause for breath on the Death Star.

Below: Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill relax between shots.



HAN AND LEIA

Ford: The Princess is the product of that world, and has her own intelligence and wit. There's no doubt about it that it's the same for all of us. It's built in. A certain amount of your behavior is based on accepting your environment and a certain amount is based on a resistance to those things you want to change. Her cynicism about her environment is what makes her the right kind of Princess for the movie.

ON AUDITIONING

Lippincott: Did George interview actors for *Graffiti* like he did for *Star Wars*?

Ford: As I remember, the interviews for *Graffiti* were just normal interviews conducted by Fred Roos, and then there were videotape tests.

Lippincott: Diane Crittendon [*Star Wars* casting director] asked you to audition for the role. Is that right?

Ford: No, I think Fred Roos insisted about three weeks before production started. George had let out the word beforehand to the *Graffiti* people that he wasn't going to use anybody from *Graffiti*.

Lippincott: Did you test with Jodie Foster?

Ford: I really don't remember. I do remember Robby Benson.

Lippincott: You read with Mark Hamill. Mark told me that.

Ford: Yeah, well, I don't remember it very well.

Lippincott: Did George ever talk about the fact that he thought you'd be Han Solo?

Ford: No.

Lippincott: He never did?

Ford: No.

Lippincott: Never brought it up?

Ford: No. It would come to me in other ways.

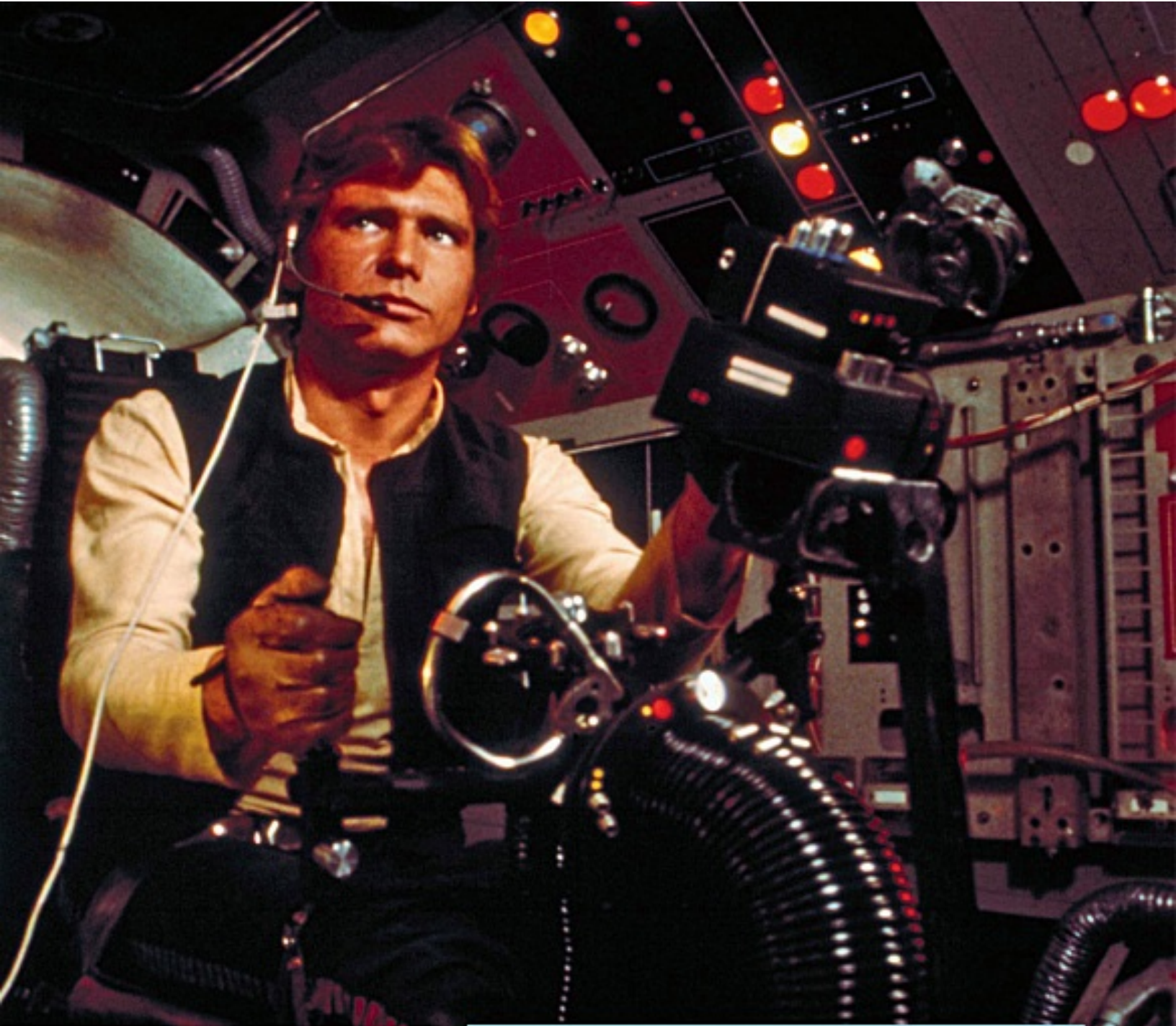
Lippincott: Had he talked about the character before you first did the scene?

Ford: No. Not much. Fred insisted that it was an extension of Bob Falfa [Ford's character in *American Graffiti*]. Which I thought was wrong.

Lippincott: Did you have an image in mind for the character?

Ford: I thought it was real clear. I don't know how to describe the picture of him that I had in my mind, but I knew from the beginning what he was like.





"I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE THE PICTURE
[OF HAN] I HAD IN MY MIND,
BUT I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING
WHAT HE WAS LIKE."



ON PRODUCER GARY KURTZ

Ford: Gary Kurtz never really spoke to the actors about anything but business. We only came to know what it was that Gary was doing after a certain period of time when he would show up with stacks and stacks of papers done in 19 different color pencils showing how the shot was to be laid out, stuff like that. Only then did we become aware of what his real competencies were.



ON HAN SOLO

Lippincott: Did you have a total concept of your character?

Ford: No, I didn't have a total concept because I didn't know the other people.

Charley: But in reading the script you must have had a concept of your character?

Ford: Well, I don't make conscious decisions like that. I just read it a couple of times and go in with what seems right and go from there. I'm not particularly aware of the elements of that decision.

Lippincott: I assume it's intuitive to a certain extent.

Ford: It better be, because otherwise there's no excuse for it at all.

Lippincott: There are English actors who get into this whole thing and talk about how they objectively reach that.

Ford: I don't understand.

Lippincott: I do sense that type of training from Carrie.

Ford: Yeah. They break down scenes into who, what, where, that kind of stuff?

Lippincott: So that you can play it without relating yourself to the characters.

Ford: I don't know how to act. It's different every time. It's probably haphazard with me. Until I get locked into something.

"I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT SO IT'S DIFFERENT EVERY TIME. IT'S HAPHAZARD WITH ME. UNTIL I GET LOCKED INTO SOMETHING"



TRUST HIM

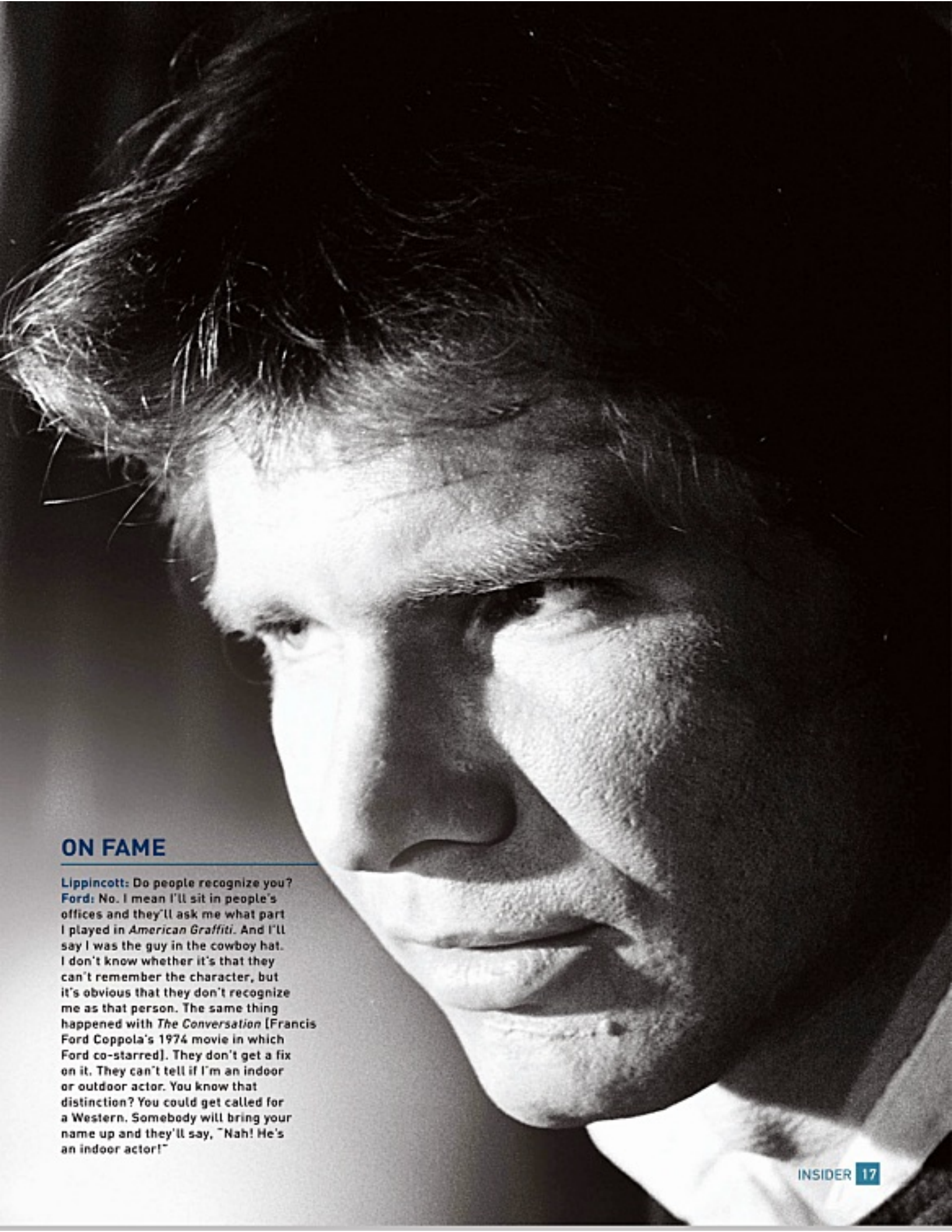
FOUR FINE FACTS ABOUT FORD

While working as a carpenter, he became a stagehand for the rock band The Doors.

He built a recording studio for Sergio Mendes.

He played the part of Colonel G. Lucas, in *Apocalypse Now*.

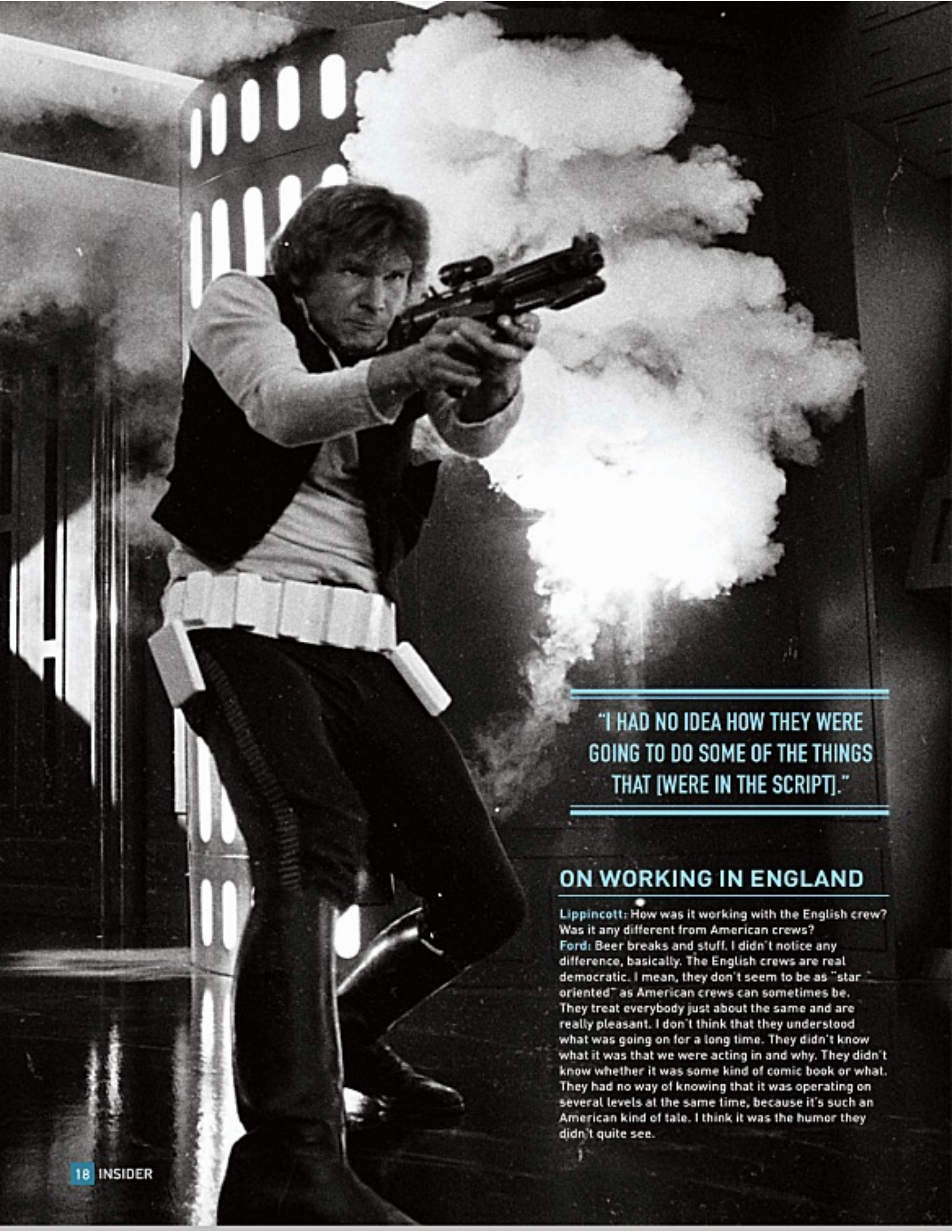
He has a species of ant and spider named after him—Pheidole harrisonfordi and Calponia harrisonfordi respectively—in honor of his work in conservation.



ON FAME

Lippincott: Do people recognize you?

Ford: No. I mean I'll sit in people's offices and they'll ask me what part I played in *American Graffiti*. And I'll say I was the guy in the cowboy hat. I don't know whether it's that they can't remember the character, but it's obvious that they don't recognize me as that person. The same thing happened with *The Conversation* [Francis Ford Coppola's 1974 movie in which Ford co-starred]. They don't get a fix on it. They can't tell if I'm an indoor or outdoor actor. You know that distinction? You could get called for a Western. Somebody will bring your name up and they'll say, "Nah! He's an indoor actor!"



"I HAD NO IDEA HOW THEY WERE GOING TO DO SOME OF THE THINGS THAT [WERE IN THE SCRIPT]."

ON WORKING IN ENGLAND

Lippincott: How was it working with the English crew? Was it any different from American crews?

Ford: Beer breaks and stuff. I didn't notice any difference, basically. The English crews are real democratic. I mean, they don't seem to be as "star oriented" as American crews can sometimes be. They treat everybody just about the same and are really pleasant. I don't think that they understood what was going on for a long time. They didn't know what it was that we were acting in and why. They didn't know whether it was some kind of comic book or what. They had no way of knowing that it was operating on several levels at the same time, because it's such an American kind of tale. I think it was the humor they didn't quite see.



Main image, left: Han Solo fighting his way out of trouble aboard the Death Star.

Left: Posing for a publicity shot in the lush redwood forest (*Return of the Jedi*).

Below: A humorous moment from *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Bottom: Han Solo and his best pal, Chewbacca!

ON HUMOR IN STAR WARS

Ford: There are laughs in *Star Wars*. I don't think there are jokes.

Lippincott: Are you talking about jokes being physical jokes? The jokes are sort of in that long chase through the Death Star.

Ford: There are lots of physical jokes in there.

Lippincott: It may not be apparent when filming.

Ford: Reading that script, I think it was really hard to tell what was coming off. I knew what I thought my character was going to be, but I didn't know what it was going to look like. I had no idea how they were going to do some of the things that were in there, at all. No idea. It was a mystery. And still is to this day.



ON NOT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT

Lippincott: Do you think that because you never had an interest in science fiction before, you had no idea how the film would look?

Ford: No, I knew what it was going to kind of look like, but I didn't know how close they were going to come to it, or stylistically how they were going to approach it. I suspected what the style of the film was going to be, and the style of acting that would be called for. But I didn't know what the reality level was going to be. I thought of it as any old road movie. I was one of these people who advances the story. This is the thematic function. I isolated the thematic function of the character easily. It's not as easy to do it in other movies as it was in this picture and that's what I knew I had to do. It was how the character served the story. 🍌



MY STAR WARS

JEREMY BULLOCH'S PERFORMANCE AS BOBA FETT HAS HELPED MAKE THE BOUNTY HUNTER A FAN FAVORITE—SECOND ONLY TO DARTH VADER IN *STAR WARS INSIDER'S* 2012 AWARDS. WE ASKED THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK WHAT MAKES THE SAGA SO SPECIAL TO HIM. **INTERVIEW: JAMES BURNS AND MARK NEWBOLD**

When did you first become aware of *Star Wars*?

When everyone seemed to be saying, "Have you seen this great sci-fi movie?"

What was your reaction to seeing *Star Wars* for the first time?

I thought I was watching something that was extraordinary. Something that would stay in the memory for a long time.

Can you reveal something about yourself that will surprise *Star Wars* fans?

I am nothing like Boba Fett. I am very gentle, especially with my 10 grandchildren. I was dangerous like Boba when I was playing soccer some years ago.

Where is the strangest place you've been recognized?

When I was waiting at a bus stop many years ago. I was in a soap opera called *The Newcomers*, and as I was getting on-board an elderly lady hit me over the head with an umbrella. In the latest episode, I had been treating my girlfriend rather badly, and she obviously took it for real!



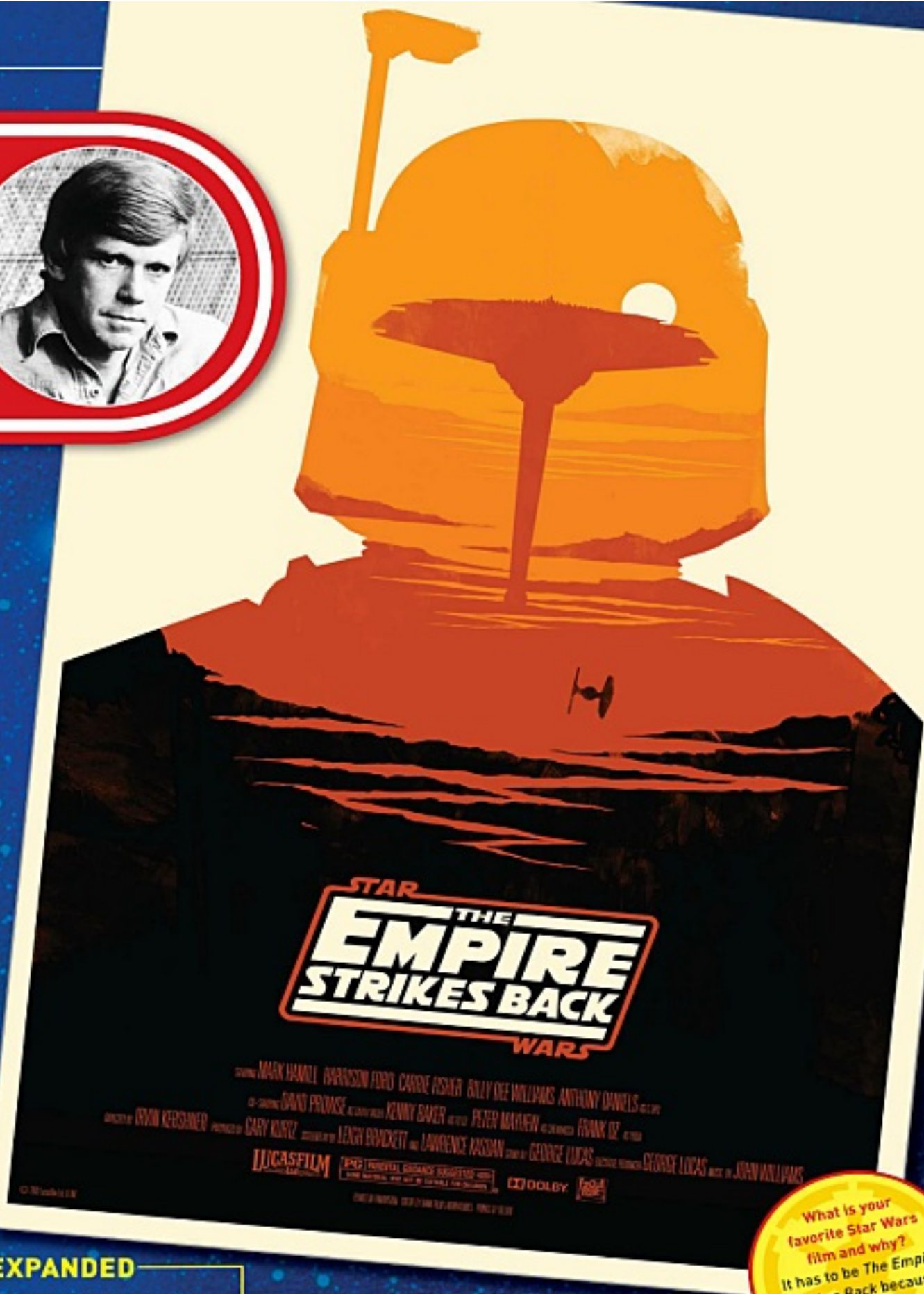
Do you have a favorite scene?
When Darth Vader says to Boba Fett, "No disintegrations." It was my first day on the set and, despite being a calm person, I was quite nervous!



Do you have a favorite *Star Wars* toy?
A metal Boba Fett figure given to me in Japan. You wind him up and he walks!

Where did you sign your first *Star Wars* autograph?
When I was in a stage play in the U.K., I was leaving the theater in Peterborough, England, after a performance of *Arms and the Man*. A fan approached me, but didn't ask about the play. He pleaded with me to sign a Boba Fett card. That was in 1983.





EXPANDED

Keep up to date with Jeremy at
www.jeremybulloch.com

UNIVERSE

What is your
favorite Star Wars
film and why?
It has to be The Empire
Strikes Back because
I made my first
appearance in it!

THE SAGA CONTINUES...

ON OCTOBER 19, 2012, AS THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LUCASFILM AND *STAR WARS* APPROACHED, GEORGE LUCAS AND KATHLEEN KENNEDY SAT DOWN WITH LYNNE HALE, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR LUCASFILM, TO DISCUSS THESE MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENTS.

THE DISNEY/ LUCASFILM FUTURE

George Lucas: Well, obviously I've been talking about retiring for several years now, which is not an easy thing to do. I wanted to get into another stage of life where I'm not in the film business anymore. Where I don't have to run a corporation, and I can do whatever I want and make movies without having to worry about what people think about them or whether they're going to make money or all that other extraneous stuff. I just want to do it for the fun of it. And, I'd like to spend more time with my philanthropy and my charities, and those kind of things.

I've been in talks with Disney for a year or so. I felt that I really wanted to put the company somewhere, in a larger entity, which would protect it. The company [Lucasfilm] itself is a real difficult thing to sustain when you're out there by yourself and you don't have any backup. But Disney is a huge corporation, they have all kinds of capabilities and facilities. Some of them duplicate what we do, but some of them

don't. But even some of them that do are very compatible with what we're doing. There's a lot of strength that is gained by this.

When Kathleen gets to the point where I am, I know she'll pick somebody really wonderful to run the company and they'll still be backed up by Disney. I said ultimately when it's the end of the world and we're all going to die, the last thing to go will be Disney!

Kathleen, what did you think of the Disney merger?

Kathleen Kennedy: I actually think there's a huge, attractive quality to working for this company with the backup of somebody like Disney. In many ways, I think it's the best company possible to take care of *Star Wars* and take *Star Wars* into the future, because I think there's huge opportunity. There are many, many things that Disney is doing around the world. I think that there's a huge potential audience as we move forward and start talking about making movies again and finding different stories to tell within the world of *Star Wars*. I think, given the tremendous success that Disney's had

with Marvel and with Pixar, and now adding Lucasfilm to that, we couldn't be at a better home.

Lucas: When I first made *Star Wars*, everybody in Hollywood said, "Well this is a movie Disney should have made. It's a perfect Disney kind of movie." Over the years, I've always had a relationship with Disney. It's the one kind of operation that is the steadiest of all the studios. The one you could sort of rely on to have the best attitude about how you go about developing these kind of projects. I think with all the companies they've got, they understand that each one has to be handled differently, and there's a certain amount of expertise necessary to make it work.

You've had a creative collaboration with them for years.

Lucas: Well, I worked in the parks. And





Kathleen Kennedy: Ready to take Lucasfilm forward and Star Wars back to the big screen.

we've collaborated on various things. I produced *Captain EO* for them. And they definitely know how to nurture a brand.

Kennedy: Nobody does it better than them.

Lucas: When it comes to the back-end of it, which is nurturing a brand, licensing, that whole package of keeping it on a steady footing, they're the best. They really know. They've worked out all of the issues. A lot of the studios have some of the capacity, but they don't have all of it.

Kennedy: *Star Wars* is one of the brands that defines blockbuster family-type movies. And that, again, is what Disney has done better than anybody. They've defined family entertainment. *Star Wars* defined where the business is today, in the blockbuster category, in the tent-pole movie category. Because, in the late '70s, nobody was making movies like that. Disney was really only confined to animated movies, and *Star Wars* was the first huge live-action movie that appealed to such a huge and broad audience.

Lucas: That's something they understand. You know, the great thing about Disney, between the parks and the licensing and everything they've got going, it's great that we have a chance to expand that. There's lots of opportunities we have at Disney that we wouldn't have at any other studio.

THE NEW STAR WARS FILMS

Lucas: I always said I wasn't going to do any more... and that's true, because I'm not going to do them. But that doesn't mean I'm unwilling to turn it over to Kathleen to do more. I have story treatments of Episodes VII, VIII and IX and a bunch of other movies, and obviously we have hundreds of books and comics, and everything you could possibly imagine. I moved that treasure trove of stories and various things to Kathleen and I have complete confidence that she's going to take them and make great movies.

It's the same philosophy behind *Indiana Jones*. I came up with *Indiana Jones*. I would take it to my friends. I'd say, "This is a fantastic movie! It's gonna be great, but I don't want to make it. I just want to go see it. I don't want to have to do the work part." Steven Spielberg jumped on it immediately and said, "I'll do that movie." It's the same thing. I wanted to see that movie, but I don't want to go through the drudgery of actually making it. So now I'm taking the difficult part of *Star Wars* and I'm turning it over to Kathleen, and I look forward to being like a regular audience



George Lucas (center) flanked by producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall on location in 1983 for *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*.

member, and seeing it for the first time and saying, "Oh, my God!" The one thing I missed in life is that I never got to see *Star Wars*. I never got that moment where I walked into a theater and was blown away, because I already knew it was nothing but heartache and problems. Which is always the way it is for a filmmaker. They never see the movie, they only see the process of what they had to go through. Maybe this will give me the chance to actually walk in and be surprised. I'm going from being the creator to a fan. I get to be a fan, now. I look forward to it. It's a lot more fun than actually having to go out in the mud and the snow.

Kennedy: You can actually blog about what we're doing, and how we're messing things up.

Lucas: No, no, no. I'm just saying, "Gosh, they're out in the snow, and it's cold, and I know they're having a very difficult time. But that's what they like to do!"

What can you tell us about the new *Star Wars* films?

Kennedy: Absolutely nothing. [Laughter] Oh, what can we tell? Well, we can certainly say that we're absolutely going to make *Star Wars* movies, and we're in the midst of the really fun part of the process which is, we're sitting down with a couple of writers and starting to discuss ideas and starting to talk about what those stories might be. We're recognizing that I think they can be pretty fun and pretty great.

What advice do you have for Kathleen as she starts these films?

Lucas: Good luck. [Laughter]. No, I don't have to give Kathleen advice. She knows what to do. She knows better than I do. That's the best part about this is that it's not somebody who I have to explain anything to. I mean, I can tell you the mythology. That's all my job is, is to be the keeper of the flame, and just make sure that it's consistent.



George Lucas and Kathleen Kennedy

"THE ONE THING I MISSED IN LIFE IS THAT I NEVER GOT TO SEE *STAR WARS*. I NEVER GOT THAT MOMENT WHERE I WALKED INTO THE THEATER AND WAS BLOWN AWAY."

—GEORGE LUCAS

Kennedy: I like to think as we move forward that the fans are on board, they help us, they support what it is we're trying to do. The main thing is to protect these characters and that they still continue to live in the way that George created them. And that the universe of *Star Wars* continues to grow in ways they can get excited about. Everybody involved in trying to create these films are fans, too. And that is what we want to try to protect.

COLLABORATION

Kathleen, tell us about when he first told you that he wanted you to take over.

Kennedy: As George said, he called me up when he was in New York. I thought we were going to sit around and talk about how the kids were and catch up and that kind of thing and then halfway through lunch he said to me, "You know, I've been thinking about retiring and I don't know if you've heard much talk about that, but I'd really like you to give some thought about

stepping in and taking over the company." Needless to say I was pretty stunned that that's what we were having lunch about! [laughter]

So I had to digest that. I answered you pretty quickly. I said I would be really interested in doing that. I kind of surprised myself saying that, because there had been opportunities in my past where I could have stepped into something like this—not like this—but certainly jobs that took me outside just the filmmaking process.

Lucas: I had been working toward this retirement. It was chugging along until it occurred to me one day that the perfect person to take over the company was Kathleen Kennedy. I mean, it was like, *Why didn't I see this before? She's always been standing right there in front of me!* I've been brooding over who am I going to get, what am I going to do, how am I going to make this work? And ruminating on it endlessly. And then, almost immediately,

I thought if she was in New York, I was in New York. I just said, "Hey. Let's go have lunch." And I popped the question. And she said yes.

I didn't know what she was going to say, because she had her own very successful career, her own successful company [Kennedy/Marshall] with her husband [Frank Marshall], making big movies. She had a very full career and I didn't know if she wanted to have a change of life, like I did.

Kennedy: I just love the challenge that it suggested. George and I, at the time, we started talk about whether or not there was a possibility of making more films. Clearly, that was very attractive and I wanted to make sure that George was going to be in the background. That I wasn't going to be entirely on my own, because it's important that he at least continue to be a little guardian angel on my shoulder. **Lucas:** They're finishing the hologram now. Don't worry.

Kennedy: My Yoda has to be there.

One of the themes of *Star Wars* is letting go, George. How do you feel about passing on the torch?

Lucas: You only go through these kind of stages... there's a small number of these kind of stages in life. Retirement is, you know, filled with a lot of sadness, and at the same time filled with a lot of excitement and exhilaration that I'm starting a new life. It's a mix of those kind of things. It's like when you leave home to go to college, or like when you get married. Those things are scary and fun, and I'm looking forward to trying new things.

Kathleen, what are you most excited about?

Kennedy: I would say the same thing. It's funny, I find that it's been interesting with George and me because we've been talking about this for several weeks now as I've started to get to meet people and get to

know how the company works and what not. And usually at the end of my phone calls with him, I end up saying, "So how are you feeling about this?" Because he's going through a transition out of the company, and I've been going through a transition out of just producing movies into running this company.

And so all of my emotions are caught up in new beginnings as he's segueing out. It is a thing that I think the two of us constantly check in with one another to see, okay, where is the balance? Is the balance happening here? I have a tremendous amount to learn from George. There are things that I want to preserve within the spirit of this company, and as it moves into Disney, I think it's vitally important to anything we create, that we hold onto the spirit of what started all of this. I would say that that's really important to me.

Can you talk about your production style and your collaboration?

Kennedy: One of the things that has been very exciting to me is I think George always started out with the idea of creating a production company to make movies, then *unfortunately* he got so successful [laughter] that it became many many more things, which are important to a business. But ultimately the making of these films is what drove him in the beginning. So, I'm really excited about putting together a production company again. It's fantastic to be involved in something like this, where with all the new technology that's coming along every year, you're able to take that and push it a step forward in terms of how we approach and make these new *Star Wars* movies. I'm really, really looking forward to beginning to put together the team that's going to do that and bring back so many of the people who were so instrumental from the beginning who are still at ILM. ILM will remain a very vibrant and important component in this company. Nothing's changing with ILM. And many of the people that were part of the creation of *Star Wars* who stayed with this company will continue to stay with this company. And I'm the beneficiary of that. I get all of that incredible talent behind me as I move forward and get on the phone every day with George.

You've worked with ILM and Skywalker Sound as a client over the years. But now as the leader of Lucasfilm...

Kennedy: It's funny, I don't really feel like I'm the leader. Truly I don't. I feel like I'm part of the team. I walk back into ILM and I walk back into Skywalker Sound, and I'm seeing people that I've seen my entire filmmaking career. And it just makes me feel comfortable.



Lucas: And those companies are run by presidents. She's got the very same job I had. I didn't run ILM, I didn't run Skywalker Sound.

Kennedy: I'm not about to tell them what to do.

Lucas: I didn't run a lot of the companies. All I did was run the movie part. Just make the movies. She's positioned to do the same job because she knows all those other things. She's been a client. She's very experienced in all those areas. Her main focus is to be able to make the movies, and then work with the presidents to keep those companies healthy.

ILM will continue just as it always had. Skywalker Sound... they're two of the top companies in the area of visual effects and sound supporting the movie industry. They still do some of the best work that's coming out of Hollywood today.

NEW TALENT

Kennedy: There's a whole generation of filmmakers that have been inspired

by George and *Star Wars*, and they're absolutely thrilled, excited, and daunted at the prospect of possibly being able to step in and carry the mantle of making these movies. I think that's exciting, too. Those new filmmakers coming into this franchise, will be able to take all the incredible ideas, characters and places we go to in this universe... It offers incredible opportunities.

What are you looking for in a director?

Kennedy: Enthusiasm. Obviously, having a sense of how to tell stories within complex worlds like this. It's not going to be people who don't already have some affinity for *Star Wars*, probably. It's going to be somebody who really appreciates what *Star Wars* meant to them and is excited to dive in and be a part of this. That's the thing that I think will become immediately apparent are the directors—who walk into the room and say, "I can't wait to be a part of this!" I think it's going to be a pretty long list.

And you've started looking at writers?

Kennedy: There are many people who sprang to mind with writers and directors that I've worked with in the past that I'm really excited to try to bring into the



George Lucas and Kathleen Kennedy on the set of *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* in 2007

"WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GO AFTER SOME INCREDIBLY TALENTED PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS."—KATHLEEN KENNEDY

fold on this. I think we have a unique opportunity to go after some incredibly talented people who are going to want to be a part of this.

George, how do you see your role as creative consultant?

Lucas: I just said that I would back her up. I would be there, especially when it comes to helping with the script. Making sure that the scripts were OK... There are a lot of blank spots in the story treatments that hopefully we can fill in.

Kennedy: This is not like a series of books like *Harry Potter*, where you've already got a template of what the stories might be. These are original stories and original ideas that come out of a world that,

essentially, is in George's head. So the beauty of the collaboration that can continue, as we work our way through these scripts, if we're sitting there going, "Hmm... I wonder if this character can do that?" or "Does this make sense within the rules of *Star Wars*?" I think there's so much that's been written about *Star Wars* that falls outside of what happened in the movies that he's the keeper of the flame.

ESSENCE OF STAR WARS

What is it about *Star Wars* that it has lasted for 35 years and its just as strong as ever?
Lucas: If everybody knew the answer they'd do it!

Kennedy: It's become part of popular culture. It's become part of the vernacular. It's got ideas in it that are very bonding, culturally, because they're shared by a generation. You don't ever really know why that happens. That is why the word that explains it is "phenomenon" because it is a collision of things that you can't necessarily explain that George created that spoke to people. They related to it in some way. It hit something deeper than themselves.

Lucas: It's also based on human behavior. Human psychology. Mythology, which is the archaeology of human behavior and thinking. Since it has those motifs, it is very universal. Everybody can relate to it.

Kennedy: I think what George said, the whole notion of dark and light, and the idea that everybody recognizes that the choices they make throughout their life can be influenced even within themselves to that degree, I think that is fascinating. We're used to seeing stories about heroes, where it all ends up great in the end. That isn't necessarily life. That's what George explored with the dark and light, and aspirational ideas.

Lucas: It's about good and evil in us, as well as within our institutions. The idea that some of us think we're really great people, but really we're not. We're terrible people.

Kennedy: Or you can make bad choices.

Lucas: Or you run your life in a very selfish way.... You think you're doing good, when you're actually not. And at the same time, how do democracies turn into dictatorships? Why do people who have the power to have the freedom and everything turn it over to someone who is going to take it all away from them? It's happened in history forever and forever. *Star Wars* is a way of updating that idea to say, watch out: There are people out there that don't play by the rules, and if you're not careful, you're going to lose all your freedom. And at the same time, those people who may not play by the rules, because they're selfish and greedy, turn themselves into evil people who don't care about others.

Kennedy: There you go. The essence of *Star Wars*! 🌌

EXPANDED

Star Wars: Episode VII is due to be released in 2015!

UNIVERSE

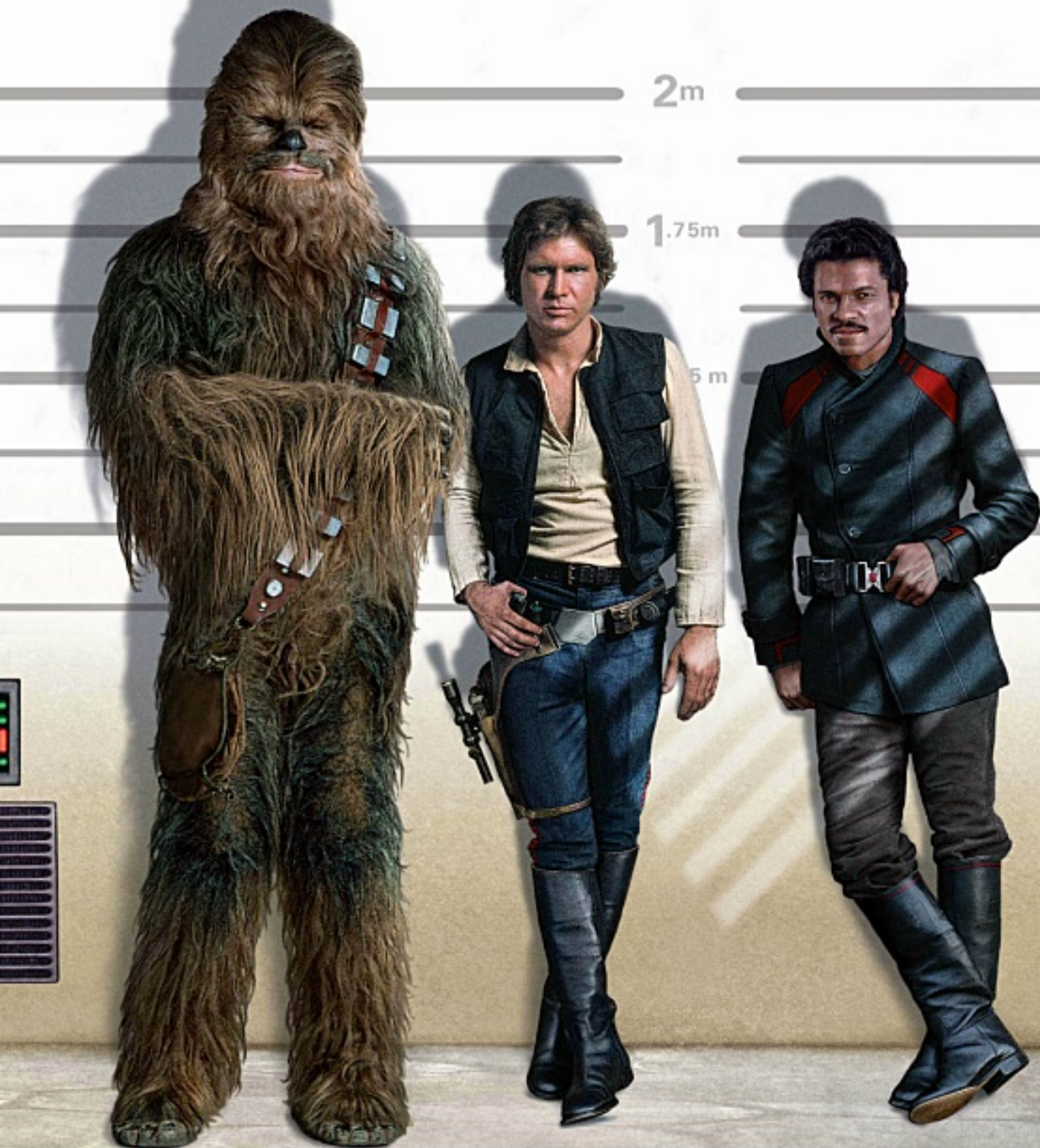
SCOUNDRELS ?

We like the sound of that.



WHEN HAN SOLO COMES TO UNDERSTAND PRINCESS LEIA'S AFFECTION FOR HIS BAD-BOY WAYS IN *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK*, HE ALSO IDENTIFIED WHY SO MANY *STAR WARS* FANS WERE ENAMORED WITH HIS CHARACTER. WHILE HE JOINS THE REBELLION AND FIGHTS FOR GOOD, HAN'S ROGUISH CHARM HAS REMAINED CONSTANT IN THE EXPANDED UNIVERSE. THIS JANUARY, FAN-FAVORITE AUTHOR **TIMOTHY ZAHN** TAKES HAN, CHEWBACCA, AND LANDO ON AN OLD-FASHIONED CAPER SET JUST AFTER THE EVENTS OF *A NEW HOPE*.

INTERVIEW BY TRICIA BARR.





Above: *Scoundrels* author Timothy Zahn.

Main image, right: Trust them! Harrison Ford as Han Solo and Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian.



SWI: A year and a half ago at San Diego Comic-Con, you were pitching ideas for a new *Star Wars* book to Del Rey editor Shelly Shapiro. Since then, we've seen a lot of enthusiasm from the *Star Wars* books team and the fans for *Scoundrels*. What about the premise makes this book special?

TZ: It's a bit of a departure, at least for me, in that it's basically a heist story, but one that's set in the *Star Wars* universe. It's also different from many of the other *Star Wars* books in that there are no Force-users involved.

SWI: *Scoundrels* shifts the stakes away from the galactic war between the Empire and the Rebellion to the criminal machinations of Black Sun, an organization that proves to be scary in its own right. What were your goals for the book's antagonists?

TZ: In this case, the Black Sun villains are mostly there to be the target and

to be manipulated by Han and his team. There's no big criminal Black Sun plot going on, unless you count the petty day-to-day work of blackmail, spice-running, and such.

Which isn't to say we want to have the Black Sun catching on to what we're doing. That would be very bad....

SWI: The novel is set after *A New Hope* and before *The Empire Strikes Back*. Was it difficult to reconcile what the fans saw in the movies to create a situation where these three work together?

TZ: I didn't find it too hard. Various explanations have been offered in other books and comics as to the reason Han and Lando had their falling out, but it seemed to me that most of those scenarios were too serious for Han's studiously innocent "Who? Me?" reaction when Lando

first confronts him in *The Empire Strikes Back*. I've come up with my own explanation here, and we'll no doubt have debates on the subject after the book comes out.

"[SCOUNDRELS] IS BASICALLY A HEIST STORY SET IN THE *STAR WARS* UNIVERSE."

SWI: While Han proudly wears the moniker "scoundrel" in *The Empire Strikes Back*, he is on the path to being a hero of the Rebellion. How did you approach this story with Han leading a caper while still keeping his characterization aligned with those heroic qualities?



TZ: I think the seeds of Han's transformation were always present, certainly after his last-minute appearance in the Battle of Yavin. Since *Scoundrels* takes place within a couple of weeks of that event, no one is really thinking Han's on any path but his own, least of all Han himself. Still, the reader will see those same hints of the future Han here, particularly his sense of loyalty and his resourcefulness when it all goes sideways.

SWI: *Scoundrels* is very much in the vein of *Ocean's 11*. Like *Ocean*, Han assembles a fairly large team. How did you decide who makes the team?

TZ: I mostly worked backward from how the heist would work [having first worked forward to the heist from the vault I'd created], picking the people I knew I would need to pull it off.



THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF HAN SOLO

After Han Solo's starring turn in the Original Trilogy, the dashing smuggler-turned-rebel was destined to play an equally prominent role in the Expanded Universe. When the New Republic era tales kicked off with 1991's *Heir to the Empire* novel and *Dark Empire* comics, Han joined his new wife, Leia, and her brother, Luke Skywalker, as the central protagonists of the ongoing storylines set in the years following *Return of the Jedi*. By the New Jedi Order era, roughly 20 years after the Battle of Endor, Leia and Han's children—Jaina, Jacen, and Anakin—began to share the heroic stage with their parents, alongside their uncle and his wife, Mara Jade. The *Legacy of the Force* and *Fate of the Jedi* series continued the multi-generational stories of tragedy and triumph, and for a time, Han and Leia became the primary caretakers of their young granddaughter, Allana.

In most of these stories, Han is an important player in an ensemble cast, just as in the movies. Occasionally, though, he takes on the central role.

In two novels released before *The Empire Strikes Back* and a third shortly after—*Han Solo at Star's End* (1979), *Han Solo's Revenge* (1979), and *Han Solo and the Lost Legacy* (1980)—Brian Daley celebrated the exploits of Han and Chewbacca shortly before *A New Hope*. Later, A.C. Crispin would develop Han's back-story in considerably more depth in *The Paradise Snare* (1997), *The Hutt Gambit* (1997), and *Rebel Dawn* (1998).

With the Han-Leia romance such an integral subplot of Episode V, it's no surprise the Expanded Universe turned to the culmination of their relationship. Dave Wolverton's *The Courtship of Princess Leia* (1994) relates the madcap adventure Han sets in motion to finally convince Leia to marry him. Troy Denning's *Tatooine Ghost* (2003) considers their decision to start a family while they learn more about her father's past on a mission to Anakin Skywalker's homeworld.

Other tales explore different facets of Han's life and personality. In Aaron Allston's *X-Wing: Solo Command* (1999), the unique leadership style of General Solo is very much apparent as he leads the famous Rogue Squadron and his New Republic task force against Warlord Zsinj. After Chewbacca's death in the New Jedi Order's *Vector Prime*, James Luceno showed Han's painful grief in the *Agents of Chaos* (2000) duology, written stylistically as an homage to Luceno's late friend Daley's trilogy. In 2008's *Millennium Falcon*, Luceno told a lighter mystery-adventure tale about Han uncovering the secrets of his famous starship's past.

With Timothy Zahn's *Scoundrels* (2012), set just after *A New Hope*, the Expanded Universe returns to the roguish scoundrel character that made Han so iconic in the first place. Next summer, Troy Denning's *Crucible* (2013) promises a Han-driven tale that sends him, along with Leia and Luke, on a new adventure set around forty years after *Return of the Jedi*.



Han, Lando, and Chewie. Art By Randy Martinez

SWI: Speaking of the vault, how did you think it up? Do you have a schematic stashed somewhere?

TZ: I mostly just tried to think of a system that should be unbreakable, then worked on coming up with a counter for each aspect of the defenses. The big challenge in something like that is to make everything seem reasonable, from both the attackers' and defenders' side of the equation.

I don't have an actual schematic, but I have a good visual image of everything in there and how it works.

SWI: Once you had the team assembled, what were the challenges of writing such a big cast?

TZ: Actually, it didn't seem that much of a problem. Each character had his or her role to play, though several of them ended up having to stretch those roles outside their comfort zones.

Also, bear in mind that even a typical *Star Wars* book has a cast of similar size, and often even bigger. With *Choices of One*, for example, I had Han, Luke, Leia, Chewie, Mara, the five Hand of Judgment

stormtroopers, and that's even before throwing in secondary characters and villains.

Luckily, a novel has plenty of space to manage a group that size, allowing room for development and some decent screen time.

"I'M ALWAYS FASCINATED WHEN PEOPLE SPOT SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T CONSCIOUSLY REALIZE WAS THERE"

SWI: Chewbacca is an integral participant on the team, despite only speaking Shyriiwook. Was writing his character difficult, or did using everyone's favorite Wookiee come naturally to you?

TZ: I've never had a problem writing for Chewie. The only trick involved is that I have to show everything in actions and other characters' responses or

reactions to him, as opposed to the direct dialogue or thought streams I can do with other characters.

In addition, given that Chewie's role in the saga ends with *Vector Prime*, I like to take the opportunity of these early-era stories to give him some good on-screen scenes. And as you say, he's everyone's favorite Wookiee.

SWI: Within their individual roles on the team, each character is very good at what they do. Your iconic creations Mara Jade and Thrawn also are famous for being extremely competent. Why do you think this makes these types of characters memorable?

TZ: I think most people like to read about characters who basically know what they're doing. [We also prefer to interact with such people in real life, for that matter.] That doesn't mean there won't be obstacles along the way—obviously, a completely smooth journey would be pretty boring—or that the characters won't find themselves in situations where their expertise is of only limited value. But for the most part, I think we prefer the Han Solos and Obi-Wan



Kenobis of the world to the Admiral Ozzels and Jar Jars.

SWI: In both Han's team and Villachor's organization, trust was a recurring theme. What inspired that symmetry?

TZ: I think trust and trustworthiness are the major factors in whether a group of people endures as a group or ultimately collapses. A criminal organization like Black Sun, filled with people who are willing to do whatever it takes to get their way, cannot by definition engender trust. Such an organization either holds together by sheer force of power, or it doesn't hold together at all.

Interestingly enough, I didn't deliberately set out to make that a theme of the book. I'm always fascinated when people spot something that I didn't consciously realize was there. In this case, all I did was create the different groups and follow their logical progressions from there.

SWI: In addition to Han, Chewbacca, and Lando, two other fan favorites—Kell Tainer and Winter—appear in *Scoundrels*. They are younger than their previous appearances in the Expanded Universe.

Did you enjoy creating some of their backstory?

TZ: It was definitely fun to give Winter some background, as well as a bigger role than she's had in my previous books. Kell was a bit more nerve-wracking—he's Aaron Allston's creation, and I'm always worried about getting another author's characters right. But Aaron was very gracious about allowing me some latitude in giving Kell the kind of talents and abilities I needed him to have for the book.

I guess I'll find out in January from Kell's fans whether or not I did him justice.

SWI: You have been praised for your ability to write strong female characters. Can you tell us a little about the two sisters, Bink and Tavia?

TZ: I wanted them to be competent characters, of course—that was pretty much a given. But I also wanted to give them a different dynamic than I've tried before: the ghost thief (my name for a cat burglar in the *Star Wars* galaxy) and her disapproving yet loving sister. Despite their differences in personality (Bink is the more

casual one, Tavia the more serious one) and their very different attitudes toward Bink's choice of career, it's clear that their one constant in a chaotic universe is each other. Either will do whatever is necessary to protect her sister, up to and including dying for her.

SWI: *Del Rey* is now branching out into ebooks, and you've written a novella, *Winner Lose All*, that uses characters from *Scoundrels*. Can you give the fans any hints?

TZ: Like *Scoundrels*, it's a caper-type story featuring Bink, Tavia, Lando, and the sleight-of-hand expert Zerba. Unlike *Scoundrels*, though, the job in *Winner Lose All* is less planned and more improvised and off-the-cuff. I had a lot of fun writing it; I hope the readers will find it equally enjoyable to read. 🍷

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Scoundrels by Timothy Zahn will be available on January 1, 2013

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PIGS IN SPACE!

ROGUES GALLERY

UGNAUGHTS AND GAMORREANS
IDENTIFIED BY LELAND Y. CHEE

1: LEE PHENETS



2: HAPNIX

3: GRUGNAK

4: YOXGIT

5: UGLOSTE



1: CHANA GLEMMORT



2: THOK



3: THUG





THE ART OF TSUNEO SANDA

TSEUNO SANDA'S ARTWORK PERFECTLY CAPTURES THE WHIMSICAL MAGIC OF THE *STAR WARS* SAGA. NO WONDER HE IS ONE OF MANY ARTISTS WHOSE WORK WAS CHOSEN BY GEORGE LUCAS TO FEATURE IN *STAR WARS ART: ILLUSTRATION*. INTERVIEW BY MARK NEWBOLD

Star Wars Insider: You are a constant and welcome fixture in the world of Star Wars artwork. What is it about Star Wars that keeps bringing you back?
Tsunео Sanda: Star Wars art is an environment in which I really enjoy working. It all began 10 years ago when I proposed an idea to Lucasfilm. But the big turning point for me was when I was able to visit Lucasfilm and meet George Lucas for the first time. It was a joy to have George see my artwork. I continue to draw a lot of Star Wars art. In addition, the imagination and power of expression that I have fits well with the world of Star Wars. The encounter was really lucky for me.

You feature prominently in *Star Wars Art: Illustration*, the third in the series of *Star Wars Art* books from Abrams and LucasBooks. Did you have any input into which piece of your art was chosen for the book?

I have to admit, I did not know that this art book was being published, so none of my art that is in the book was suggested by me. I understand that it was George Lucas who chose all the artwork in the book.

Other than your imagination, what are your primary tools as an artist?

I use acrylic paints, airbrush, Japanese paintbrushes, colored pencils, and illustration boards. I spend a lot of time on the draft with a pencil. And about four weeks are spent from draft to completion.

What planets and characters interest you the most as an artist?
I have been involved with Star Wars art for many years, but I do not get too deeply into it. This is because I do not want to specifically "frame" my thoughts, and my ways of expressing them. I always put myself into a neutral position.

**"SURELY STORMTROOPERS ARE THE MOST
IMPORTANT CHARACTERS IN *STAR WARS*?
I ALWAYS GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO
STORMTROOPERS WHEN I DRAW."**

You are clearly a great fan of stormtroopers, as they feature in many of your works. Have you enjoyed watching the evolution of the design from the Mandalorian helmet to the classic stormtrooper and beyond?

Surely stormtroopers are the most important characters in *Star Wars*? I enjoy watching the evolution of the helmet. The reason why I have a good relationship with the 501st Legion is that I approve of their activity and their volunteer work. I always give top priority to stormtroopers when I draw.



When doing a character study, what do you need to do to "get inside" that character's head?

I move a character in my head in the same way as a movie. I cut the best angle of movement within my head, and then I make many thumbnail sketches.

You are known for your intricate and detailed artwork. How did you develop your style?

I picture my work until I understand it as much as possible without drawing anything. This prevents me from hurrying my artwork. I work hard to develop a universal idea, to make artwork that is loved for years. The art comes from oneself and I enjoy the process of making the artwork.

I love to draw *Star Wars* art, and the ability to draw that I have is extremely natural. The reason why fans feel the delicacy and the unique colors in my artwork may be because I have a certain sensitivity. I was born and raised in Japan and I am very proud to be Japanese.

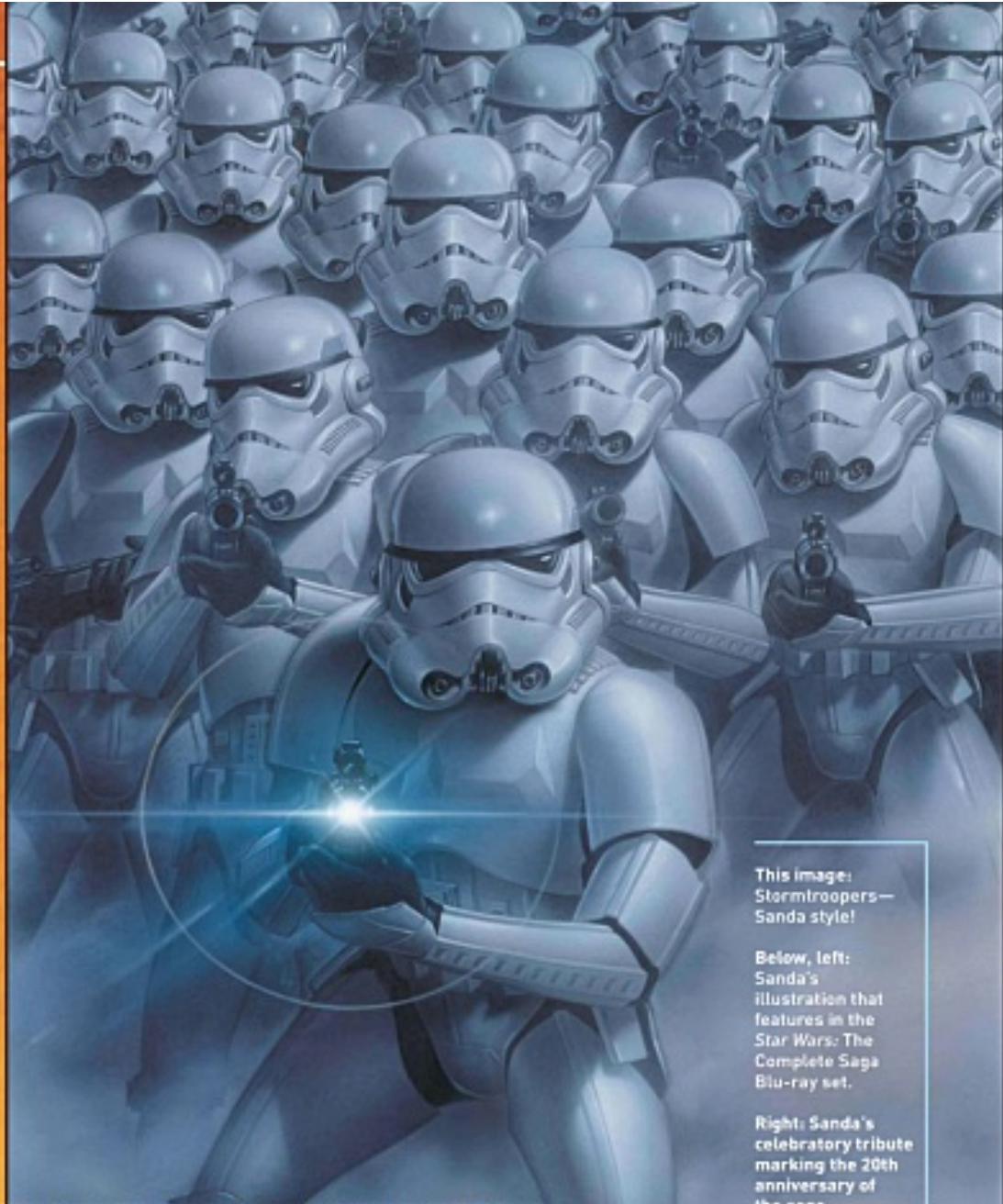
**"IT IS THE GREATEST JOY
FOR ME TO HAVE FANS
DISPLAY [MY ART] IN
THEIR ROOMS."**

If you could choose only one character from the *Star Wars* galaxy to paint, who would it be?

Darth Vader! I love his terrifying mask. He is the most impressive and strongest villain. He does not show an expression, and I feel it brings about creativity because Vader is a mysterious character. That totally gives depth, expanse, and creativity to me.

Your artwork has been seen on a variety of different *Star Wars* projects, including comics covers, posters, and iPod covers. Where is your favorite place that you have seen your artwork?

As an art print! The print is finished once I proof it and check the art, and the result is the art print, which is a near limitless copy of my original artwork. It is the greatest joy for me to have fans display it in their rooms! ☺



This image: Stormtroopers—Sanda style!

Below, left: Sanda's illustration that features in the *Star Wars: The Complete Saga* Blu-ray set.

Right: Sanda's celebratory tribute marking the 20th anniversary of the saga.



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Star Wars Art: Illustration is out now. See more of Tsuneo Sanda's art at www.sandaworld.com

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20th ANNIVERSARY



FEW WOULD DISAGREE THAT *STAR WARS* CELEBRATION VI WAS EASILY THE BEST *STAR WARS* CONVENTION YET. WE ASKED THREE GUESTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES OF THE SHOW...

Photos by Consella Parker, Angel Martinez,
Justin LaSalata, Joel Smith, and Matt Bookatz



Even the youngest fans
had a part to play. Note a
captured Artoo on the side!

Members of the
501st on patrol!



Attendees didn't always dress as typical Star Wars characters as these two *Spaceballs* fans prove!

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE EYES OF...

THE HEADLINER

MARK HAMILL, KNOWN AND LOVED AS LUKE SKYWALKER IN THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY, WAS ONE OF THE BIG-NAME GUESTS AT THE CONVENTION. HIS AUTOGRAPH LINE WAS ALWAYS LONG AND PACKED WITH FANS KEEN TO MEET THEIR HERO. WHILE HIS EXUBERANT ON-STAGE INTERVIEW KEPT THE AUDIENCE ENTHRALLED AND DELIGHTED.

Conventions are always overwhelming. This was only the second Celebration I've done here in the States. When you go about your everyday life, you just forget about the passion these fans have, the intelligence and the knowledge they have of the source material. I really have this urge to give back after being up close and personal with that experience that is Celebration—the fans are almost

choked up because I'm not used to that kind of unconditional love. It's both very easy and very difficult to face up to it. My favorite part of both of the conventions was the chance I had to go and appear in front of an audience and have a question-and-answer session.

At the last show, James Arnold Taylor [the host] said to me, "What do you want to do here? Do you have anything planned?" and I said, "Mostly, I want it to be about the fans. I want it to be mostly question-

"I'M CELEBRATING THE FACT THAT THERE'S SUCH A LARGE CONTINGENCY OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE SO FILLED WITH AFFECTION AND LOVE."

like family at this point. They really are so loyal and so loving and support you in a way that you don't get from critics or journalists or even fellow actors at times. I really want to make it as special as I can; I want to celebrate them as much as they're celebrating something that I was attached to. It just seemed like the perfect caper—I'm still coming down from that jolt of energy that they provided for me.

What I found remarkable about this get-together in Florida is that it's called Celebration. The fans are what I call ultra-passionate, but as much as they're celebrating their love of all things Star Wars, it's mutual—I'm celebrating the fact that there's such a large contingent of people out there that are so filled with affection and love. It sounds corny, but there were moments when I would just get

and-answer." I get in trouble when I do my signings, because they say I talk too much to the fans! I don't like that. You only get a minute or two with each person, and hopefully you can make it memorable for them in some way or ask where they're from or just make it a personal experience.

Appearing in front of an audience, especially one which is predisposed to hang on your every word, is a real jolt to the ego. And after Celebration, I'm back home picking up after my dog in the yard and bringing the trashcans to the curb!

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Follow Mark Hamill on Twitter
@HamillHimself

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Mark Hamill: a proud new member of the Jedi Assembly!





The cast of audio drama "Smuggler's Gambit" performing live at the show! From left to right: Tom Kane, Daniel Logan, Ashley Eckstein, Dee Bradley Baker, Matt Lanter, Sam Witwer, Clare Grant, Matt Wood, David Collins.



Mark Hamill is reunited with an old friend!



An awesome Plo Koon costume.

Muppet troopers take to the floor!

THE HOST

JAMES ARNOLD TAYLOR'S VOICE PERFORMANCE AS OBI-WAN KENOBI IS A KEY PART OF *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS*' HUGE SUCCESS, SO HE WAS THE PERFECT CHOICE AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES ON THE MAIN STAGE AT CELEBRATION VI. INTERVIEW: AMY RATCLIFFE

James Arnold Taylor was in almost constant motion at Celebration VI. The voice of Obi-Wan Kenobi and Plo Koon spent most of his time fulfilling his duties as host on the Main Stage. When he wasn't talking to *Star Wars* icons, he was rehearsing and then performing his one-man show, *Talking to Myself*. Despite being a busy guy, he managed to have fun and experience the joy of Celebration.

"I think that the coolest thing about this Celebration is that everybody involved on my end has just said it was such a huge success. It was a great time and people were enjoying themselves.

Taylor's favorite moments from Celebration were all on the Main Stage, because that was his own personal world during the convention.

"I would say one of my highlights would be getting the chance to interview Ian McDiarmid and letting the fans see and hear from him in that way. That was really important and special to me. Another was enabling Mark Hamill to shine as the amazing performer he is, and watching him perform as the Joker was pretty fun. Next on my list was speaking to Carrie Fisher. Just getting to see her true fun nature and her love of *Star Wars*, fans, and

"STAR WARS IS NOT JUST A MOVIE THAT YOU SIT AND EAT POPCORN AND WATCH. IT'S SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS PEOPLE TO THE CORE."

"For me, it was a celebration of *Star Wars*. It really was. I brought a lot of new things to the table to Lucasfilm when they asked me to host, and they were willing to let me experiment. I think all of it was proven to work in regards to the shows that we put on. The conversations felt more like a late-night talk show instead of the usual panels, which is what we were going for. It was a lot of fun."

He interviewed the likes of Ian McDiarmid, Mark Hamill, and Carrie Fisher, and he was thrilled to share those experiences with the fans. The format allowed for unconventional answers and for the unexpected. Taylor pointed out that having Carrie Fisher throw him over her lap and give him a spanking was pretty good! "You can't get better than that, and it really demonstrates the fun nature of the whole thing."

her love of laughing at herself—it was great getting to share that time with her. Then, seeing Seth Green and his group premiering *Star Wars Detours* to people that were very accepting of it. Having George Lucas come out and surprise everyone, that was fun. Finally, on a personal note, getting to perform my show to an amazing group of people was great. I always say these fans are the best fans in the world."

Taylor saw that passion on display when he visited the exhibit hall, too. He thinks it's fantastic that fans take their love for the saga and turn it into so much more. "*Star Wars* is not just a movie that you sit and eat popcorn and watch, it's something that affects people to the core. It's brought them to a place of being able to make a living off of their love for it and sharing their love of arts. I think at the end



Before interviewing her live on stage, Taylor got a photo op with Carrie Fisher.



Star Wars Detours' Matt Seinerich and George Lucas live on stage (Seinerich brandishes a copy of *Insider*!)





Seth Green poses with Jedi Master James Arnold Taylor!

of the day, that's probably all George is looking to do—sharing his love of storytelling, of art, and the beauty of art. And that's what he's accomplished when we all get together at Celebration."

Taylor was also thrilled to see his cast mates from *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* receive such recognition. "Getting to see them perform and having people cheer for them because they're just such a great cast—that was special." He was at the Season Five premiere with everyone and was pleased by the crowd's reaction. "We got to see Obi-Wan in a way we haven't seen him in a while, and that was awesome for me. There's a moment when Obi-Wan is battling Savage Opress and Darth Maul in this episode ["Revival"], and he has a moment that is stellar and the crowd cheered for

the good guy. Last season ended with the bad guys on top. It was like *The Empire Strikes Back* all over again, and this episode had a little touch of *Return of the Jedi*. The good guys triumph and that felt so good."

Obi-Wan has had a rough time lately. Taylor laughed and pointed out, "I think throughout the time I've been voicing this character, I've never had to do as many fighting and being-beaten-up sounds as Obi-Wan as in the last year. I don't know what Obi-Wan is going to have to endure this year, but hopefully the first episode is a sign of some things to come. We'll just have to wait and see."

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Follow James Arnold Taylor on Twitter at @JATactor

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The Emperor and slave Leia pose for the cameras.

THE COSPLAY QUEEN



About to hit the convention floor—Samantha Roberts as Asajj Ventress!

AS THE DAUGHTER OF THE VOICE OF YODA ON *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* (TOM KANE), SAMANTHA ROBERTS MAY HAVE A JEDI MASTER FOR A DAD, BUT SHE MADE THE PERFECT SITH....

When I look back at attending *Star Wars Celebration VI*, I get this huge smile on my face.... then it turns into an, "Oh God, what was I thinking?" moment.

Believe it or not, my eight other siblings and I were raised by Jedi Master Yoda of *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*, but we find it simpler to just call him "Dad." When he announced on his Facebook page that his baby girl was diagnosed with Stage 3b Hodgkins Lymphoma in May this year, it got immediate attention from his hundreds of friends, co-workers, distant family members, and fans wanting to wish me the best of luck with my cancer. He started getting messages and posts by the hour by people wanting to know if he was going to

Ben Stevens at Official Pix, and he said I could go into their "green room" as much as I needed, rest for a bit, then run back out for more. In no way was I one of the celebrities at Celebration, but the way everyone was looking at me sure made me feel like I was.

When Saturday came, we had to get up at 6am, because it was going to take two and half hours for make-up, 30 minutes for me to take a nap, a few minutes for practice poses in the mirror, and then Katie helped me squeeze the costume on. It was time to head over to the convention center. Because of the chemo, I felt like a bus had run over me, but no matter how badly I wanted to take off all the make-up and just rest, I was way too excited for that day to let anything stop me.

I wasn't prepared for the amount of



bags of toxic meds floating around my system, but it all seemed like a dream.

After only two hours, I had to take another break. I was catching up with Mark Hamill and his daughter Chelsea, who I had not seen in several years, when my last ounce of energy ran out. The convention people took me back to the hotel and I collapsed into bed.

A lot of people might think it's silly that it took longer to get into make-up and costume than I was able to show it off, but I don't care. For a few hours, I got to feel like a *Star Wars* celebrity. What I never imagined is how it would go all over the Internet. I have gotten literally thousands of comments, likes, messages, and every other kind of social media buzzword out there.

And the best part? The amazing *Star Wars* fans donated almost a thousand dollars to *Stand Up 2 Cancer* at my dad's table. It was the coolest use of a bald head anyone could have come up with, all because of my amazing father and his selfless friends who made it happen. This was my very first Celebration, but because I got cancer, it will be the best one I will ever attend. 🙌

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Discover more about the great work done by *Stand Up To Cancer* at www.standup2cancer.org

Don't miss the next Celebration! www.starwarscelebration.eu

UNIVERSE

"FOR A FEW HOURS, I GOT TO FEEL LIKE A *STAR WARS* CELEBRITY!"

bring me to Celebration VI. Of course I was all over that, especially because it was Florida and he promised me a day at the beach.

Then he had this wild idea, an idea that seemed so crazy he was strangely hesitant to ask me what I thought about it. He pulled out from behind his back a photo of Asajj Ventress and said, "If I can find a costume and someone to do your make-up, would you like to go running around as her for a day at the convention?" "Hell, yes!" I yelled. "I've already got the bald head for it!" He said my best friend, Katie, could come with us, and she decided to wear a Slave Leia outfit for her very first convention. [Now that's brave!]

Unfortunately, from the moment we got to Florida, I had a different reason to think "Oh, God, what was I thinking?" I had gone through a round of chemo two days before and was not doing well. So my dad talked to

attention I got. "Slave Leia" and I couldn't walk three feet without a dozen people wanting to take our photo. We were a hit. What shocked me was how many people knew who I was. The little kids were my favorite, even though about half of them started crying and clinging to their mom or dad's leg too much to take a photo, because, well, I looked pretty scary! I knelt down and tried to tell them I was just a nice girl in a costume, but that was not really a good strategy, because it usually increased the tears.

My time on the convention floor was pretty much a whirlwind—at one point, I found myself surrounded by a security escort trying to get me through the crowd, then suddenly I was posing with Seth Green and Donald Faison—Turk on *Scrubs*—with a hundred people acting like paparazzi to capture the moment. Maybe it was the four



Igniting Lightsabers for another photo op, while a stunning Grievous joins the fun (below).



Dynamic duo! Samantha and her best friend Katie!



Out of costume, Roberts joins chef Vader for lunch!



EXCLUSIVE FICTION

"HEIST"

BY TIMOTHY ZAHN
WITH ART BY BRIAN ROOD

The world of larceny, like every other field of endeavor, had its collection of conventional wisdoms. Near the top of that list was the warning that pulling off a heist aboard a starliner was a stupid thing to do. With a limited roster of suspects, and with nowhere to run until the ship made port, the odds were dangerously high that a thief would be caught.

Bink Kitik had heard that bit of conventional wisdom many times throughout her career. But she'd never much worried about the odds.

"You'll be seeing him again tonight?" Bink's sister Tavia asked.

"Unless you think he'll come rushing into my arms with all those pretty jewels if I stand him up," Bink said as she gave herself a final look in their stateroom's mirror.

"I suppose that's unlikely," Tavia conceded, coming up behind Bink and adjusting a stray lock of her hair.

Bink gazed fondly at their side-by-side images, playing her usual game of pretending to be a stranger trying to pick out which of the identical twins was which. Even knowing all the hidden subtleties that distinguished them from each other it was still a challenge. To the best of her knowledge, no one else had ever figured out how to do it.

It was a happy accident of nature that had come in handy any number of times throughout Bink's career. And would do so again tomorrow.

"At least you didn't have to—you know—in order to get into his stateroom," Tavia continued, her reflection wincing. "I appreciate you at least drawing the line there."

"I know how much that sort of thing bothers you," Bink said soothingly. In actual fact, given the right circumstances, she would probably have been willing to let herself be lured to Cristoff's bedroom. It would have been much easier to break into his stateroom's private safe if she were already on that side of the door.

But while Cristoff had repeatedly angled for an invitation to Bink's stateroom, he'd never offered to bring her to his. Even people with more wealth than they could spend in five lifetimes were wary of being robbed, and apparently he didn't

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, BINK KNEW, HER SISTER LONGED FOR A QUIET, PEACEFUL, *LEGAL* LIFE. SOMEDAY, BINK PROMISED HERSELF. SOMEDAY.

buy into the conventional wisdom any more than Bink did.

"How does the mesh feel?" Tavia asked as she finished with Bink's hair and shifted her hands to the sleek dress wrapped snugly around her sister's modest curves.

"It's great," Bink assured her. Actually, the sensor mesh Tavia had designed, built, and layered into the dress material was a little scratchy. It was also likely

to get unpleasantly warm as the evening wore on, especially given that Bink's neck, shoulders, head, and hands were the only parts of her body the dress didn't cover. But the thing was such a marvel of electronic engineering that Bink couldn't bring herself to get picky. "Wish me luck," she added as she turned from the mirror and headed toward the stateroom door.

Behind her, she heard Tavia's sigh.

More than anything else, Bink knew, her sister longed for a quiet, peaceful, *legal* life. Someday, Bink promised herself. Someday, when the big score finally came. Until then, life would continue to be a struggle to keep their heads above water and daily bread on their table.

With luck, Cristoff would soon be making his own contribution to that goal.

Cristoff was one of those men who exuded a carefully tailored mix of gallant, charming, and predatory. Bink had studied it, and him, from a prudent distance before finally making her approach three days earlier. It was a compelling combination, one that had probably worked on most women.

But Bink wasn't most women. She'd also dealt with more than her share of such men since her teenage years, and she knew exactly what they wanted and how they liked to get it. More importantly, she knew that the chase was more to them than the actual conquest, and that an elusive quarry was guaranteed to pique both interest and a heightened level of pursuit.



Most important of all was that fact that, while she knew his agenda, he had no idea of hers.

And so once again she sat beside him at dinner, this time among the elite at the Captain's Table, playing the prey as adroitly as he played the hunter. She laughed at his jokes, occasionally reached out to touch his arm or let him touch hers, sometimes subtly pulled back. After dinner came a couple of drinks, then dancing to the surprisingly entertaining rhythm-skee of the liner's comedy caller, then a couple more drinks.

Finally, pleading fatigue and the upcoming busyness of the cruise's final day looming ahead, she let him escort her to her stateroom door. Once again, he tried to finesse an invitation to come inside; once again, she begged off on the grounds that the falpas sauce he'd ordered for their appetizer glaze had left her stomach a little queasy. Hinting that she would make it up to him after tomorrow's final evening, she offered a down payment in the form of a long, close hug and an even longer and more lingering kiss.

Tavia, as usual, was waiting anxiously for her return. "How did it go?" she asked as she led Bink to the couch and helped her sister out of the tight-fitting dress.

"About as expected," Bink said, resisting the urge to give each freshly released patch of skin a vigorous scratch. She'd been able to ignore the mesh while she was playing her coy temptress role, but now that she was back in the safety and privacy of their stateroom, the itching had come roaring back. "It took a bit of skip-dancing to get him to order the falpas sauce, but I'm pretty sure he remembers it as being his idea." She pulled on the soft and delightfully non-itchy robe Tavia had laid out for her and nodded to the dress now draped over her sister's knees. "The big question is whether it was all worth it."

"We'll know in a minute," Tavia said, moving a small sensor slowly and methodically over the mesh. "Probably depends on whether you hugged him the way you said you were going to," she added, her voice carrying a hint of disapproval.

"Someone has to do it," Bink murmured, suppressing a grin.

"Here we go," Tavia said, easing the sensor closer to the dress. "Right hip pocket." She shot Bink a stern look. "I'm not even going to ask how you got in range of that part of his anatomy."

Bink shrugged. "Hey, if he would be a proper gentleman and always carry his keycard in the same place, I wouldn't have to resort to such underhanded tricks."

"Underhanded," Tavia repeated, making a face. "Cute."

"Thanks," Bink said modestly. "The point is that we got it. Which means—"

"Hold it," Tavia interrupted, peering at the sensor's display. "What in the...? Oh. Oh, very nice."

"What is it?" Bink asked, sitting down beside her. The data streaming across the sensor's display was way too fast for her to read. "What's nice?"

"Your friend isn't as stupid as he looks," Tavia said. "He's actually expecting to have his pocket picked. Hence, this keycard."

"I thought it was hence, he moves it randomly from one pocket to another," Bink said, frowning.

"No, that part is because he doesn't want to be obvious about it," Tavia corrected. "See, this keycard will open his stateroom door just fine. It'll also send a simultaneous alert to ship's security."

"Unless he punches in a code somewhere?" Bink asked hopefully.

"No code," Tavia said. Tapping the reset on the sensor, she started moving it down the dress again. "No, this one's a hundred percent booby trap. However..."

She paused. "However?" Bink prompted.

"Wait for it," Tavia said, moving the sensor down toward the dress's lower hem. "However...ah. The other keycard—the real one—is down here in a sock holster. No way anyone could get that one out without him noticing."

Bink smiled. "Good thing we don't need the card itself."

"A very good thing," Tavia agreed, studying the display. "I'm also glad I insisted the dress be formal-length."

"Me, too," Bink said. Keycards were shielded against sensor scans beyond a few millimeters precisely to prevent this kind of surreptitious scan-and-copy, which was why she'd had to snuggle up so close to him. "But then, it was the Captain's Table. They expect a certain elegance there anyway."

"I'll take your word for it," Tavia eyed her sister. "So it's on?" Bink nodded. "It's on."

TAVIA WAS A LOVELY WOMAN. BINK HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT, FAR LOVELIER THAN BINK HERSELF DESPITE THE FACT THEY SHARED THE SAME FACE. UNLIKE BINK, TAVIA HAD AN INNER POISE AND A PLAIN, SIMPLE LIKABILITY.

It was the last night of the cruise, the last few hours before the starliner docked at the Kailor V transfer station in the small hours of the morning and the passengers prepared for the mass morning departure. Everyone was decked out in full-bore finery, their outfits designed to attract and impress and, possibly, to finalize unspoken hopes and promises that had been made earlier in the voyage.

And for once, it was Tavia, not Bink, who was dressed to the full limit of elegance and style.

But then, Tavia wasn't really herself tonight. Tavia was, rather, Bink.

"Now, you remember all my catchphrases?" Bink asked as she looked her sister over. Tavia was a lovely woman, Bink had always thought, far lovelier than Bink herself, despite the fact they shared the same face. Unlike Bink, Tavia had an inner poise and a plain, simple likeability that Bink herself always had to work hard to counterfeit.

"All of yours, and all of his," Tavia said, her smile showing just a hint of the tension she was obviously feeling. "I also remember his tastes in music, food, and drink, and all the life stories he told you. Don't worry, I can handle this."

"I know," Bink assured her, trying to put aside her own tension. Tavia had long since resigned herself to the necessity of playing these roles on occasion, and despite her ethical resistance she really was quite good at it. But that didn't mean Bink ever felt comfortable throwing her to the wolves this way. "I'll signal as soon as I'm back."

"Don't cut corners on my account," Tavia said. "I'll be fine."

"I know," Bink said again.

Ten minutes later, Cristoff came by to collect his date for the evening. Hidden inside the "fresher," Bink pressed her ear to the door and listened closely to the small talk as Tavia collected her purse and wrap and the two of them left the stateroom. Everything sounded all right, but Bink knew that could change in a heartbeat.

She wouldn't cut corners, because that was how a job blew up in your face. But she definitely wouldn't be lingering.

She waited another ten minutes before leaving the stateroom herself, dressed more modestly than most of the preening travelers, and with just enough actor's putty layered across strategic parts of her face that she no longer looked like the woman currently hanging on Cristoff's arm. Cristoff's suite was on the liner's upper-elite deck, behind a locked corridor door which required one of those same elite stateroom keycards to open. The copy Tavia had created from the sensor mesh data passed this first test, opening the door without fuss and letting Bink inside.

As she'd expected, the corridor was deserted, with all the occupants down in the public areas. Bink walked through the silence, watching and listening for any hint that her unauthorized entry had been detected and tagged. But no security officers or inquisitive droids had shown up by the time she reached Cristoff's door.

Once again, the keycard did its job. Bink went inside, wondering briefly if Cristoff might have pulled some kind of double-reverse that would leave this keycard as the one that would trigger the alarm. But Tavia hadn't seen any hidden coding, and anyway Bink's own reading of Cristoff hadn't indicated that kind of overdeveloped subtlety. Whatever creativity the man possessed would more likely manifest itself in the combination he'd arranged for the stateroom's private safe.

Fortunately, creativity was one of Bink's own specialties.

The safe was exactly as the stateroom floor plans showed it: built into the right-hand side of the computer desk, molecularly bonded to the deck, and constructed of hull-metal slabs thick enough to require a plasma torch, a couple of tanks of fuel, and several perfectly good hours of a thief's life. The electronic keypad was built into the door and surrounded by enough sensor blocks and scramblers to keep anyone from brute-force slicing the combination. Once the pattern was set, only the stateroom's current occupant could get it open.

And Cristoff had recently done just that, Bink saw as she held Tavia's sensor over the keypad. Earlier this evening, probably when he pulled out his rings and the absurdly expensive wristband he liked to show off.

She smiled as she peered at the sensor's display. One of the best things about falpas sauce, aside from its delicious taste, was that the warm, tingling glow it sent through the bloodstream ultimately emerged a few hours later as a slight alteration in sweat composition. Last night's dinner had left traces of distinctive chemicals on the buttons Cristoff had touched, chemicals that could be scanned for.

Which was only half the battle, of course. No one with any brains used a code that utilized any given button only once, and whatever else he might or might not have, Cristoff did have brains.

But Bink had both brains and an experienced eye. The falpas-laden sweat left marks that were distinct enough that she could see the faint double edges where he'd keyed a given button twice, or even three times.

Unfortunately, none of that could tell her the order in which the various numbers had been keyed. For that, she would have to rely on Cristoff's history, his current life, three long days spent hanging onto his every word, and the extensive data-search profile Tavia had worked up while Bink

BINK HADN'T PLANNED TO BE OVERLY GREEDY. SHE DUMPED OUT THE CASES INTO THE SAFE, SPREADING THE CONTENTS AROUND JUST TO CONFUSE THE ISSUE A BIT.



was enjoying the liner's upper-end amenities.

Entering the keystroke data into her datapad, she punched for all the possible combinations. There were, not surprisingly, a lot of them. Calling up Tavia's list of the significant times, dates, and events of Cristoff's life, she ran her eyes down the parallel columns, searching for a match.

And there it was: the date and CTE market number of his first successful corporate takeover, the triumph that had launched him on his path to his current level of wealth and power. Smiling triumphantly, she keyed in the combination.

With a quiet, genteel snick, the safe popped open.

The jewel cases, she knew, would have integrated tracers.



So would some of the bigger gems. But Bink hadn't planned to be overly greedy. She dumped out the cases into the safe, spreading the contents around just to confuse the issue a bit, then selected a half dozen of the more modest-sized stones. She put them in an anti-sensor pouch, just to be on the safe side, and slid the pouch behind her belt.

And with that, she was almost done. Almost. Because the minute Cristoff opened the safe and saw the mess she'd left behind there would be hell to pay from one end of the liner to the other.

Which simply meant making sure he never again opened the safe.

A dead energy cell on this kind of sequentially shared public safe typically triggered one of two default modes. The

first was for the door to simply unlock, which would allow the current owner to retrieve his or her valuables. The downside there was that it would likewise allow anyone else to do so if he or she got there first. The second, more common approach, was for the safe to lock down completely, requiring a visit from the ship's purser and a specialized power/code pulse to reopen it.

The first step was to make sure the default setting was for a complete safe lockdown. The second was to drain the energy cell. The third was to reset the purser's master code.

Just for fun, she set it to the date and CTE market number of Cristoff's second successful corporate takeover.

She'd given Tavia the all-clear and had been waiting anxiously in their stateroom for nearly an hour when her sister finally returned.

"You all right?" Bink asked anxiously once she'd made sure Tavia was alone. "I was starting to get worried."

"I'm fine," Tavia said, kicking off her shoes and dropping tiredly onto the couch. "Your Cristoff has a great deal of stamina."

Bink felt her eyes widen. "Stamina?"

"On the dance circle," Tavia assured her hastily. "He also drinks way more than he should."

"And tried to get you to match him drink for drink, no doubt," Bink said sourly.

"He tried," Tavia cocked her head. "How about you?"

"No problems," Bink said. "Everyone will assume the safe's malfunctioned, and they'll be hours cutting it open. By the time they realize what really happened we'll be long gone."

"I hope so. How much did we get?"

Bink shrugged. "We're set for the next month. No more than that, I'm afraid."

"A month works," Tavia said, nodding. "There are some good-sized electronics firms on Kailor V. Maybe I can finally get a job that meets with your approval."

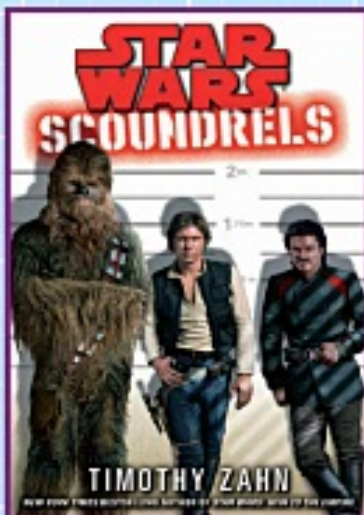
"Maybe," Bink said diplomatically. "I'm sure there are jobs like that somewhere out there."

Only there weren't, she knew. Not the kind of job Tavia was looking for.

But they had a month's worth of breathing space. By then, Bink would have something else lined up. Probably something small, but maybe something big.

Maybe even that big score that would finally let them be free of this life forever.

She could always hope. ☺



EXPANDED

Bink and Tavia return in *Scoundrels* by Timothy Zahn, available from January 1, 2013

See more of Brian Rood's art at <http://brianrood.com/>

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"THANK THE MAKER"

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

"Thank the Maker" gives us a rare glimpse into the mind of Darth Vader during the events of the classic trilogy, after he has learned of the existence of the rebel known as Luke Skywalker. By this time, Vader has realized that Luke is his son, and has surely also realized that the Emperor lied to him when he told him that Anakin had killed Padmé before she gave birth. As he cradles the head of C-3PO in a Cloud City room after the droid has been blasted by stormtroopers, Vader remembers how he was once the Tatooine slave boy who saved the droid from the junkyard and promised his mother that he would be responsible for him.

Remembering that promise, and hearing of Chewbacca's similar actions in rescuing C-3PO from a junk pile, Vader changes his mind about having the droid smelted and has the droid's parts returned to the rebel prisoners. Vader's moment of reflection over his past is surely one of the first steps in the redemption that will lead to him throwing the Emperor into the Death Star reactor in order to save his son. As we see at the end of the story, however, when he leaves for his "appointment" with Han Solo in the interrogation chamber, Vader hasn't reached that point yet. The balance of the Force, however, is shifting.

WHAT THEY SAID

I'd always wondered about how C-3PO's parts wound up in Chewbacca's cell on Cloud City. It wasn't until after I read the screenplay for Episode I that I considered the possibility that Darth Vader was responsible. I thought the story would be more effective if it had flashbacks of young Anakin, revealing his optimistic reasons for building C-3PO, as that contrasted well with Vader's subsequent actions. I'm not sure, but "Thank the Maker" may have been the first story set during the Original Trilogy with a flashback to the Prequels.

Here is my thumbnail sketch for the ninth page. As you can see, the artist, Kilian Plunket improved on it quite a bit!

—Ryder Windham, 2012



ESSENTIAL TRIVIA

The image from the comic of Darth Vader holding C-3PO's severed head in his hand, Hamlet-style, has become so iconic, it inspired a Deluxe Mini Bust by Gentle Giant Studios in 2011.

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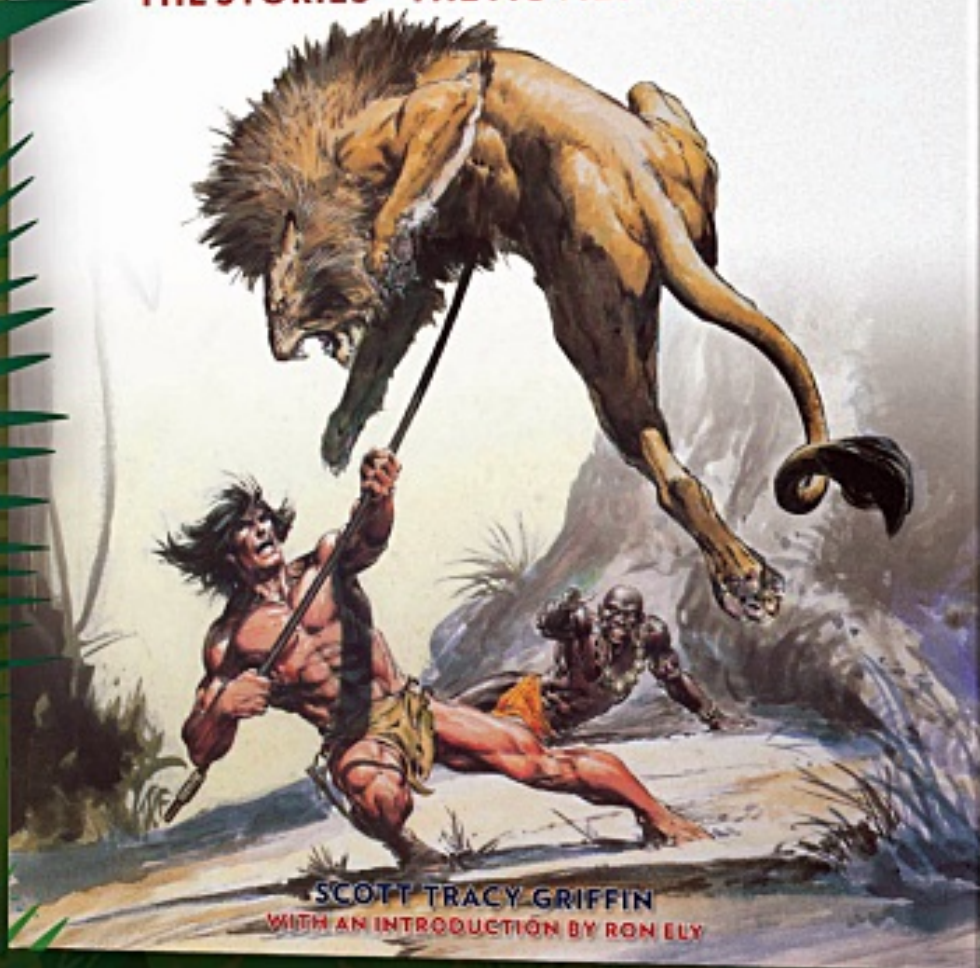
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BOOKS



SMUGGLERS, TRAMPS, AND THIEVES

TIMOTHY ZAHN PLANS A HEIST CAPER WITH *STAR WARS: SCOUNDRELS* WORDS: DAN WALLACE

Star Wars is known for epic clashes of Jedi vs. Sith, and also for deep-space slugging matches between fleets of starfighters. Timothy Zahn (*Heir to the Empire*, *Allegiance*, *Choices of One*) is no stranger to either scenario. But *Star Wars* is also the story of fringe operators like Han Solo and Lando Calrissian who make their livings through luck and street smarts. Now, for the first time in decades, Del Rey is releasing a *Star Wars* adventure set solely among the galaxy's riff-raff, and Zahn is happy to be leading the charge.

"A heist should be right up the alley of some of the galaxy's more disreputable sorts," Zahn points out. *Scoundrels* takes place shortly after the destruction of the first Death Star, and while Han Solo might be a rebel hero, he still has a price on his head courtesy of Jabba the Hutt. After he's offered a huge payout for breaking into the estate of a Black Sun crime boss and his impregnable vault, Han jumps at the chance to kiss his money woes goodbye. And, even though Han and Chewie aren't master thieves, they're definitely acquainted with people who are.

The ensemble cast assembled to execute the heist—with echoes of *Star Wars* meets *Ocean's 11*—is one of the most appealing parts of *Scoundrels*, and Zahn chose his players with great care.



"I started by figuring out how the safe's security would work, how I would break through that security, and then who I would need for the various parts of the job," he explains. "Plus, which skills would come in handy

when the plan starts to fall apart around the edges. There are a couple of familiar faces who have shown up in other books, but there's nothing about their pasts or futures that a new reader would need to know. Basically, if you saw the classic movies, you can read *Scoundrels* without ever feeling lost."

In addition to headliners Han Solo and Chewbacca, *Scoundrels* has a co-star in Lando Calrissian. At this point in the timeline, Lando hasn't yet made his Cloud City fortune and still bears a grudge against the man who took the *Millennium Falcon* away from him as part of a gambling pot. "Classic Han is one of my favorite characters," says Zahn, "and Lando is equally fun to write. Lando has been kept more on the sidelines than he should have, and I'm not sure why. Unless there are so many scoundrels and cutthroats floating around that a suave and urbane operator like Lando has been lost in the shuffle."

In *Scoundrels*, readers can take a trip back to the classic *Star Wars* era and enjoy an intricate criminal caper with a satisfying payoff. Says Zahn, "There's Han, Chewie, and Lando, plus Imperials, lightsabers [slightly damaged], and Black Sun criminals. What more does a *Star Wars* adventure need? You get to make your own rules!"

CHOOSE YOUR SIDE

OR PICK BOTH! READERS HAVE OPTIONS WITH TWO NEW DK RELEASES



Star Wars: The Clone Wars is in its fifth season, and the imaginative, award-winning animated series continues to enrich the Star Wars universe with every episode. From December 24, younger readers can uphold the light side or dive into the dark side with the release of *Who Are the Jedi?* and *What Is a Sith Warrior?*, two new Clone Wars reference books from DK Publishing.

"They have a fun question and answer structure," explains writer Glenn Dakin. "We throw out a question like 'Can a Jedi defeat a zombie?' or 'Can a Sith do a good deed?' and explore the answers, just like fans do when they rave about the show. We make full use of a massive archive of stunning images from Lucasfilm, and

there's plenty of argument and opinion in there."

The 96-page hardcovers are packed with facts about the good vs. evil conflict between the Jedi and the Sith, and promise to shed light on often-asked questions like the colors of the lightsabers that the Jedi carry, and how the Sith choose their apprentices.

"I love fiction that creates a big, mysterious world your imagination can get lost in," says Dakin, who has developed his own original fantasy setting for young readers through the *Candle Man* series. "One of the things I like about *Star Wars*: *The Clone Wars* is the way it makes room for new, striking characters: Cad Bane, Ahsoka Tano, Asajj Ventress. Grievous' personal doctor droid is a good one!"

So with his knowledge of the Jedi and the Sith, does Dakin have a favorite faction? He's not willing to commit just yet. "I love the quirky, weird range of the Jedi," he admits, "From Plo Koon to Pong Krell. I love the fact that Obi-Wan is so devoted to peace but constantly enrages his enemies with sarcasm under extreme stress. And I like the Master/Padawan thing and the banter that comes with younger characters trying to outdo their older Masters. Ahsoka and Anakin have plenty of that."

And the Sith? "They're wonderful for their superbly diabolical point of view," he says. "I love the way they make allies of the most sinister characters in the galaxy. Of course, the Sith are so evil they tend to make enemies out of their allies sooner or later."



COMICS

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

BANISHMENT HAS CONSEQUENCES IN *STAR WARS: DAWN OF THE JEDI* — THE PRISONER OF BOGAN. WORDS: DAN WALLACE



The second Dawn of the Jedi storyline began publication on November 28, and things are beginning to look grim for the galaxy's ancient Je'daii. The first story arc, *Force Storm* [available in a collected edition on December 12], took readers back more than 25,000 years to meet the heroes of the Tython system and witness the defeat of Xesh, a Force Hound working for the Rakatan conquerors. As the story opens, Xesh is serving out his sentence on the dark moon of Bogan but learns he's not the only exile.

**"Daegen Lok is not quite sane. If you're a powerful Je'daii, that's very dangerous."
—John Ostrander**

"Xesh has been imprisoned so he can seek balance, but the *true* prisoner of Bogan is Daegen Lok," explains artist Jan Duursema. Writer John Ostrander adds, "People are sent to the moon when the Je'daii find them out of balance in the Force, and it's safe to say that Daegen Lok is seriously out of balance. In fact, Daegen Lok is not quite sane. If you're a powerful Je'daii, that's very dangerous."

Daegen Lok's mad vision for the future is something he won't give up, and he finds



//////////
a potential ally in Xesh. Before long, the two of them have staged a jailbreak. No one seems better equipped to stop the Bogan escapees than the three Je'daii Journeyers who captured Xesh in the first place.

Xesh remains a central character and the Je'daii protagonists from the first story arc are returning, but Ostrander and Duursema promise they haven't forgotten about Xesh's bosses. "The Rakata don't know exactly where Tython is, but it's as if they can smell it out there somewhere—and they want it," says Ostrander. "The Force Hound Trill is sent to find it. You'll learn more about her connection to Xesh, while Xesh learns more about himself."

**"We're going to visit places
for the first time."
—Jan Duursema**

Dawn of the Jedi is the earliest story to take place within the *Star Wars* timeline, and as such it has opened up new narrative possibilities. "One of the questions John and I asked ourselves is, how does a group of people react to an alien in their midst?" says Duursema. "There have been thousands of stories about what would happen if aliens arrived here on Earth, but *Star Wars* is a galaxy where aliens are not a novel thing. The people of the Tython system haven't known any aliens who didn't arrive on the planet with them, and in this story, they realize the Rakata are an unknown species missing from the archives of their ancestors."

The storyline also provides opportunities to open up the Tython system, showing off the world-building that Ostrander and Duursema have devoted to their setting. "We're going to visit places for the first time," promises Duursema. "Krev Couer, where giant crystals grow from the silica sands and where sinkholes lead to an underworld of vast caverns and underground seas. Nox, the manufacturing world, is a dismal place where breathable air is a commodity to be bought and sold. And Shikaakwa, one of my favorite worlds so far, is where deals are made and life is cheap."

Dawn of the Jedi: The Prisoner of Bogan will have a five-issue run, but Ostrander and Duursema have plans for the series that go far beyond that. "Before we even began, it had already been established that the *Force Wars* ended in a cataclysm that caused the Je'daii to leave Tython and become the Jedi," says Ostrander. "How that happened is the story we're telling, and there will be lots of twists and turns in getting there. That's what we do!"





THE EMPEROR'S BLACK KNIGHT

DARTH VADER FIGHTS A PLANET TO CATCH A JEDI IN *STAR WARS: PURGE*—THE TYRANT'S FIST.

WORDS: DAN WALLACE



By the time of *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*, the Jedi were so few in number that Darth Vader was considered "all that's left of their religion." And in the *Star Wars: Purge* comics from Dark Horse, readers have tracked Vader's progress as he eliminates the Jedi on his way to becoming the last Force-user standing.

Star Wars: Purge—The Tyrant's Fist is the latest adventure, pitting Vader against Jedi survivors, but this time the Sith Lord has a problem. "It's the early days of the Empire when Palpatine is still consolidating his strength," explains writer Alexander Freed (*The Old Republic*). And because Vader's target has hidden among natives who will die to defend the Jedi, eliminating his target isn't going to be a simple matter of subtraction.



"Vader's first instinct is to wipe out the whole planet," says Freed. "But Palpatine knows the Empire can't afford to rule through fear alone, not yet. A guerilla war would drag on indefinitely. Executing the planet's heroes would just create martyrs.

Fury and rage won't win this, so Vader is going to need to think less like a soldier and more like a king."


The two-part *Purge—The Tyrant's Fist* features interior art by Marco Castiello and Andrea Chella, and covers by Dan Scott.

Continued on page 66



Cover art by Dan Scott

DAN SCOTT

A dramatic illustration of Darth Vader in his iconic black armor and cape, holding a glowing red lightsaber. He is positioned in the foreground, looking towards the right. In the background, two Stormtroopers in white armor are visible, one holding a blaster. The scene is set against a backdrop of intense orange and yellow flames, suggesting a battle or destruction. The overall tone is dark and intense.

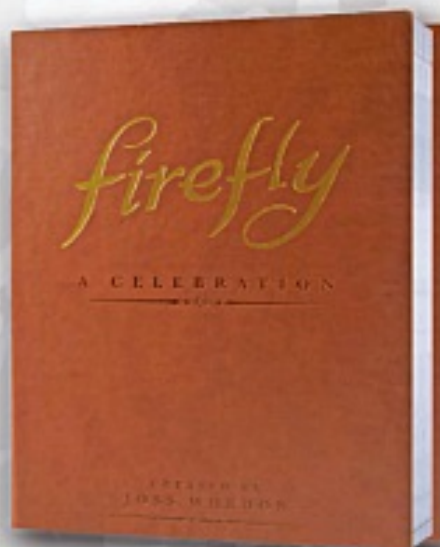
"Anakin is a past he's chosen to bury. And yet everything Vader knows, he's learned as Anakin." —Alexander Freed

The story is an opportunity for Freed to write Darth Vader as the brutal enforcer seen in the classic trilogy, brimming with confidence and swagger. "He's not yet the utterly confident and invincible warlord he'll become, but he's already a terrifying black knight," he says. "Anakin Skywalker is a past he's chosen to bury. And yet everything Vader knows, he's learned as Anakin. This is not a man untethered to his past."

So is there a deeper motivation behind Vader's campaign of extermination? "We know that Vader is utterly obsessed with destroying the Jedi," says Freed. "Where does that obsession come from? Is it guilt and the Jedi are a reminder of his crimes? Does it give him a sense of purpose? Or does he truly feel threatened? I don't think Vader himself knows the answer. And as for me, I'd prefer to leave it to the reader to decide." 🍌



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INCOMING

THE LATEST *STAR WARS* GEAR YOU'LL WANT TO ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION! WORDS: JAMES BURNS

ANGRY BIRDS *STAR WARS* TAKE OVER!

HASBRO

Following the announcement of the Angry Birds Star Wars app, Hasbro has entered into an agreement with Lucasfilm to create a variety of products based on the title. These products are available now and feature Battle Games and popular Hasbro brands Jenga and Koosh all with an Angry Birds Star Wars twist! This time, our favorite Rebel heroes from Star Wars have beaks, wings, and a bad attitude toward the Empire's evil piggies!

ANGRY BIRDS *STAR WARS* BATTLE GAMES

The Battle Games line from Hasbro captures all the launching and destroying fun of the game! Stack the blocks in the shape of iconic Star Wars buildings and vehicles and then use the new Lightsaber Launchers to destroy them.

There are five different Battle Game packs to collect, including the AT-AT

Battle Game (pictured below), Darth Vader's Lightsaber, Fight on Tatooine, Jabba's Palace, and Early Angry Birds Package (pictured opposite, below). The characters are also available in Mystery Bags that contain two characters, priced at \$2.99. Available: now, price \$9.99 to \$39.99





ANGRY BIRDS STAR WARS JENGA DEATH STAR

Pull back the X-wing fighter to launch an epic squawk attack with Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, or Chewbacca birds and knock the pig's block off to explode the Death Star. Available: now, price \$29.99



CARTAMUNDI

COLLECTIBLE CARD GAMES

What better way to spend the holiday season than with your loved ones, playing an old fashioned game of cards? How about slow-motion Pairs, Light Speed Snap, or the ultimate test of stealth in Go Fish? That's where Cartamundi comes in! They've created the Angry Birds Star Wars deck of playing cards. The Angry Birds Star Wars playing cards feature all your favorite Star Wars characters from the new games, and the deck is available in four different, embossed limited-edition tins. Each tin comes with a matching collectible 3D lenticular bonus card. Collect all four limited edition tins to collect all the different cards. Available: now, price \$4.99



STAR WARS ANGRY BIRDS EARLY BIRDS PACKAGE

Our favorite pick from this new range is the Star Wars Angry Birds Early Birds Package, which celebrates the original Kenner Star Wars Early Bird pack from Christmas 1977. The pack features similar graphics to the original release, as well as the same four characters: R2-D2, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, and Chewbacca, along with two blocks and one Lightsaber Launcher. Available now, price \$9.99





BOSSK—SCUM AND VILLAINY SIXTH SCALE FIGURE

Hot on the heels of the Sixth Scale figure of Boba Fett comes the newest addition to the *Star Wars* Scum and Villainy Sixth Scale figure line from Sideshow Collectibles, the ruthless Trandoshan Bounty Hunter, Bossk. Bossk is the third Bounty Hunter to be released in Sixth Scale form, from the *Executor* scene from *Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back* after Boba Fett and IG-88.

The Bossk Sixth Scale Figure features a highly detailed and hand-painted head, an intricate pressure suit and flak vest with gaskets and fittings, two sets of interchangeable hands, two sets of feet (standard and action versions) and a Relby V-10 micro grenade launcher. Bossk is based on version 1.2 of the Prometheus body featuring newly sculpted Trandoshan forearms and lower legs. The standard version has a limited edition size of 3,000.

The Sideshow Exclusive version of the Bossk Sixth Scale Figure includes an additional "snarling" Bossk Head for alternate display and is limited to 1,250. Available: December, 2012 price \$159.99

DARTH MALGUS PREMIUM FORMAT FIGURE

From the massive multiplayer online (MMO) game title, *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, Sideshow Collectibles proudly introduces the Darth Malgus Premium Format figure.

Presented in approximate 1:4 scale, the formidable commander of the Imperial Army is outfitted with detailed armor, a custom tailored fabric cape and signature lightsaber. Giving a dynamic and dramatic look at the darker side of the Force, the Darth Malgus Premium Format figure is crafted with exceptional attention to detail, and is an outstanding addition to any collection. The Darth Malgus Premium Format Figure features a fabric cape, lightsaber, detailed armor and a respirator, and has a limited edition run of 1,000. Available March, price \$374.99



C-3PO AND R2-D2 PREMIUM FORMAT FIGURE

Available in Premium Format 1:4 scale, Sideshow Collectibles is proud to introduce the highly anticipated C-3PO and R2-D2 Premium Format figure set. The iconic droid duo are crafted with stunning attention to detail. C-3PO, standing 16.5" tall, comes to life in any number of poses to capture perfectly the anxious protocol droid's fretful and proper personality. The resourceful astromech droid, R2-D2, standing 10.5" tall, is fully equipped for his many daring adventures, and features a retractable center leg and working wheels. Depicted on the sands of Tatooine, the inseparable droids are individually hand painted and finished. They boast brilliant LED light up components and are a must have addition to any *Star Wars* collection. These are the droids you're looking for and—you don't have too long to wait! Available: January 2013 price, \$749.99



GENTLE GIANT

POWER DROID KENNER JUMBO FIGURE

Gentle Giant continues their line of vintage *Star Wars* action figure reproductions with the release of the classic Power Droid. Digitally scanned from mint 3 3/4" Kenner originals and reproduced to a substantial 7 1/2" tall, no detail has been overlooked. These reproductions have inspired vintage collectors all over the world and are just like they were when we were kids, only bigger! This jumbo figure is fully articulated with "clicking" leg movement faithfully reproduced to be just like the original.

The Power Droid comes on a 1978-style blister card featuring original front and "21 back" artwork all in a re-sealable plastic outer clam shell to help protect or display. Available Q2 2013, price \$90



SY SNOOTLES MINI-BUST

Just in time for the 30th Anniversary of *Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi* is the latest limited edition Mini-Bust from Gentle Giant: Sy Snootles. Sy was previously released by Gentle Giant as part of the Jabba's Band Statue in 2007 along with Max Rebo, Droopy McCool, and Salacious Crumb. Sy Snootles is the first of the Max Rebo band to be released in Mini-Bust form; expect to see Droopy McCool and Max Rebo added to this scale in 2013, too. Rendered in high-quality polystone and hand painted, each of these limited edition mini busts are individually numbered and come with a matching certificate of authenticity. Available Q2 2013, price \$75

AT-AT BOOKENDS

These AT-AT bookends follow on in the same style of the other bookends we've seen from Gentle Giant over the last few years. Starting with the Mos Eisley Cantina, we then got the Silver *Star Wars* Logo, the Trash Compactor set, Jabba's Palace (regular and Premier Guild Membership variants) and more recently the Gold *Star Wars* Logo. Each bookend set is cast in high quality polystone and then hand painted. Each bookend is numbered and comes complete with a matching limited edition certificate of authenticity. Available Q2 2013, price \$225



HER UNIVERSE



STAR WARS PJ'S

The Her Universe brand continues to go from strength to strength, and Ashley Eckstein, the voice of Ahsoka Tano in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* has done an amazing job of meeting the needs of female fans and collectors.

This holiday season, why not buy your loved one or just treat yourself to these brand new pajamas from Her Universe which feature original art by renowned artist Katie Cook. They consist of super soft flannel pajama pants and comfortable matching tank top, which showcase Darth Vader and the phrase "I woke up on the dark side of the bed." Available now in sizes small - XL, pajama pants and tank top sold separately for \$25 each or as a set for \$50



STAR WARS CHEWBACCA HOLIDAY PIN

In keeping with the holiday tradition, Her Universe follows up their 2010 R2-D2 pin and 2011 Yoda pin with a Chewbacca pin for 2012. Limited in quantity to only 1,000 pieces, these exclusive pins are free with any order on Her Universe.com beginning 11/26, but when they're gone, they're gone!

FREE
with purchase
and whilst
stocks last!

WELOVEFINE.COM

Judging by the lines at *Star Wars Celebration VI*, Mighty Fine has made an impact on the *Star Wars* T-shirt consumer! One customer who did make it to the front was George Lucas. Lucas even picked up several T-shirts including some of the designs on show here. The team at WeLoveFine.com are regularly adding brilliant new designs.

"Free Throat Hugs" is one of the most popular Vader T-shirts sold by WeLoveFine.com.

"Rocking Walker" by Mark Daniels/Sublevel Studios, a UK artist, is one of the tees that George Lucas picked up from the booth at *Star Wars Celebration VI*.

This very funny "It's a trap" design is by Brian Kesinger and it was the grand prize winner in WeLoveFine.com's recent *Star Wars* design contest.

Last up is "Bib's 4-Tuna Chowder" by one of our top Mighty Fine Artists, Timothy Lim (Ninjalink)—super cute and super funny!

Available now, price \$25
Follow We Love Fine on Facebook to learn about upcoming design contests



BLACK MILK



When the first *Star Wars*-branded Black Milk products were released, they took the Internet by storm. Following the success of the R2 dress and swimsuit, C-3PO swimsuit, and Han Solo swimsuit, Black Milk are expanding their range to include more dresses, swimsuits, and, for the first time, *Star Wars* leggings! All Black Milk products are made in Australia and are currently available at blackmilkclothing.com, but they ship worldwide for free on all orders over \$200. The range now includes six new swimsuit designs that feature Darth Vader, Darth Vader comics, a lightsaber duel, *Star Wars* Manga artwork, the Force design, and Yoda. The new designs look amazing... we'll let them speak for themselves! Available now, price \$125

Six new dresses now complement the original R2 design, and they feature images of Boba Fett, the Death Star, Han Solo frozen in carbonite, slave Leia, a stormtrooper and everybody's favorite Ewok, Wicket. Available now, price \$135



New to the *Star Wars* range are leggings and there are six designs available featuring droids R2-D2 and C-3PO, Han and Chewie, Han Solo frozen in carbonite, Skywalker montage, TIE fighters, Yoda, and Luke. Available now, price \$110



BOUNTY HUNTERS



MEET THE STARS, SHOW THE EVIDENCE, WIN THE BOUNTY! *STAR WARS INSIDER'S* BOUNTY HUNTERS SECTION IS SPONSORED BY KOTOBUKIYA. EACH ISSUE'S WINNER WILL RECEIVE A FANTASTIC KOTOBUKIYA *STAR WARS* STATUE KIT, WORTH AROUND \$100!

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BOUNTY WINNER!

STAR STRUCK!

I was lucky enough to meet Kenny Baker, Peter Mayhew, and Dave Prowse at Celebration Europe in London 2007. I met Dave again at a signing the year after, when I got him to sign the inside of my Master Replicas Darth Vader helmet.

My wife, our friend Bruce, and I had our photo taken in the corridor set of the blockade runner with three troopers from the UK garrison of which I am a member. The same day, Simon Pegg had the same photo taken with the UK garrison. —Simon Gannon, North Yorkshire, England



Simon meets Dave Prowse



Pow to pow with Peter Mayhew!



Another enemy of the Empire captured!



Kenny Baker says, "Hi!"



The Gannons and Bruce brought to Imperial justice!



Danger in Danger! Simon Pegg cornered by the 501st!

THE ACTION MAN AND THE PRINCESS

While at my second Philadelphia Comic Con this year, I met stunt coordinator Nick Gillard, who showed off some cool lightsaber moves. I told him I was a Grand Jedi Master. He said his rank is Jedi King! He was a nice and very funny guy.

I also met Carrie Fisher at Celebration V. I got a hug from her after I went to her table. We chatted for a little bit and I told her I was winning my battle against cancer. —Sean Connaughton, by email



Sean not only gets a hug from Carrie Fisher...

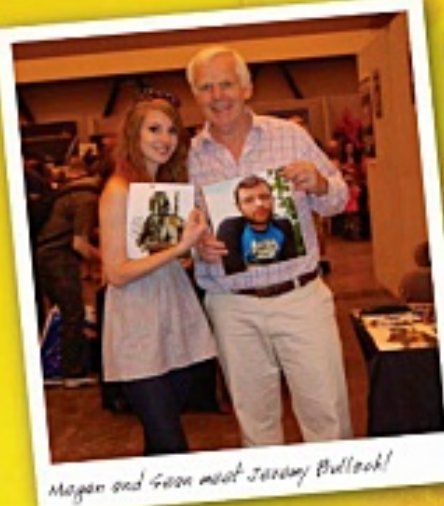


...but also stunt coordinator Nick Gillard!

A TRUE TROOPER!

In the summer of 2010, my husband, Staff Sergeant Darren Pennington, was deployed to Afghanistan. This meant he would miss the London Comic-Con (we were stationed in England at the time) and he'd have to miss meeting the two Boba Fetts: Jeremy Bulloch and Daniel Logan.

I didn't want him to be too disappointed, so I printed out his picture and posed with the two actors! It was great meeting them both, and I explained the entire story to each of them. They were gracious enough to go along with surprising my husband with these awesome photos! —Megan Pennington, by email



Megan and Sean meet Jeremy Bulloch!



Megan and Sean greet Daniel Logan!

A DATE WITH A DROID

I met Anthony Daniels at the 2011 Fan Expo convention in Toronto, Canada. I was very excited to meet him because I loved his role as the protocol droid C-3PO in the *Star Wars* movies. He did not disappoint! He was a very friendly person to talk to, and seemed to really enjoy meeting his fans. He made sure we all had a good time by walking down the line, shaking hands, and posing for photographs. Every year, I look forward to going to this convention, so for a huge *Star Wars* fan like myself, this was a great and memorable experience! —Laura Koskocky, Ontario, Canada



Laura meets actor Anthony Daniels!

CAN YOU GO ONE BETTER?

DO YOU KNOW KATALIE PORTMAN? ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH FRANK OZ? MAYBE YOU'VE ARM-WRESTLED AHMED BEST? WE WANT TO SEE! SEND PHOTOS OF YOUR ENCOUNTERS WITH THE STARS OF *STAR WARS* TO: BOUNTY HUNTERS, *STAR WARS INSIDER* VIA THE CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 3, OR EMAIL US AT STARWARSINSIDER@TITANEMAIL.COM



VOL.
71

BANTHA TRACKS



BY THE FANS
FOR THE FANS

THE SEASON OF GIVING . . . ALL YEAR LONG!

For *Star Wars* fans, giving is not confined to the holidays— it happens every month of the year. *Bantha Tracks* celebrates their generosity with this special giving edition.

PARTY GIFTS

"I had many *Star Wars*-themed parties as a child, so I was thrilled when my children asked for their own *Star Wars* birthday party this year!" writes Holly Householder, who baked the incredible *Star Wars* treats in the pictures. "My son Benjamin dressed as an Ewok and my daughter Charlotte dressed as Princess Leia in her Ewok gown."

Householder created TIE fighter cake pops with Oreo cookie wings and candy windows, as well as Ewok cakes in snowman molds.

"The rebels would have been proud at the rate that the kids disassembled the TIE fighters!"

The Jedi in the photos is Ben Duhe.



GET IN TRACKS!



↑ WALKERS GO ROGUE

The London Rogues of Ontario, Canada, supported the annual "Autism Speaks" walk in London, Ontario, with a full host of characters and a good measure of fun. Photos submitted by Christopher Watson.



↑ SLEEP TIGHT

Kate Buike of the Seattle, Washington area sewed up a whole stack of Star Wars pillowcases to benefit the Sew Expo charity, at the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital. Every child who is admitted to the hospital receives their own special pillowcase. Buike reported that more than 4,000 pillowcases were donated to the charity at the event.



REMEMBER THE PINK →

"Star Wars is the story of epic battles, and each October the members of the Nar Shaddaa (Rebel Legion) and the Midwest Garrison (501st) fight the most epic battle of all," writes Phyllis Schulte, "the battle against breast cancer."

The group raised funds for months, starting in April and going through the event in October, coming in third place out of 65 teams of fundraisers. "Not too shabby for the most unusual team of breast cancer fighters you are likely to find anywhere!" says Schulte.



↑ DOING THE MOST GOOD

The photo might seem like a contradiction, but the Imperial 80th Squad proved their good holiday spirits for the Salvation Army in Omaha, Nebraska. Photo submitted by Rob Carmichael.

← WALK NOW FOR AUTISUM

Photo submitted by Maul Zabrak, PR Officer of Garrison Carida.





UNITED FOR THE GREATER CAUSE

An entire legion of *Star Wars* fan groups helped raise almost a quarter of a million dollars for the Crystal Ball charity fundraiser in Southaven, Mississippi.

"They chose to use *Star Wars*, with the permission of Lucasfilm, as this year's theme," writes Chris Williams, Commanding Officer of the Rancor Raiders Garrison. "The entrance was decorated to look like the halls of the Death Star; and when you walked through the blast doors, it was like you were in outer space. There was a Death Star hanging from the ceiling with two X-wings being chased by two TIE fighters. Lasers mounted on the ships made them look as if they were firing at each other."

The Imperial Garrisons and Rebel Bases supporting the event were: Rancor Raiders Garrison (Mississippi); Alabama Garrison; Crimson Nova Squad of the Star Garrison (Arkansas); Midsouth Garrison (Tennessee and Kentucky); Best Alpha Garrison (Louisiana); Dagobah Base (Mississippi and Louisiana); and the Corellian Base (Alabama and Tennessee).

"*Star Wars* comic artist Lin Woodman painted a mural of different ships and space scenes on the surrounding wall," continues Williams. "My Garrison membership liaison, Kevin Avent, organized the event and it was incredible. The attendees and staff were blown away."



IMPERIAL GIRLS

Olivia and Sophie Fontana visited their favorite Imperials at the Cooper Memorial Library *Star Wars* event. Photo submitted by David Iskra.

JEDI ROYALTY

"Orli Shoshan [Shaak Ti] was received like royalty in Puerto Rico by the local Jedi," writes Ineabelle Rodriguez. The local fans met Shoshan at the Expo Science/FX event in San Juan.

LEAVE IT TO ARTOO

R2-D2, built by Bob Jacobsen, delighted kids of all ages at the Northwest Modelers' Weekend at the Seattle Museum of Flight. Photo by MK Buike.



SMALL BUT MIGHTY

"The small lightsaber group known as the 'Saber Guild' assisted local radio station KFI AM 640 and the Bill Handel morning show in raising \$160,000, three tons of pasta, and a ton and a half of sauce for homeless motel kids," reports Robert Estrada. "The White House of Anaheim feeds over 300 kids a day who live in motels and would go to bed hungry if wasn't for their efforts."



SEASON OF HOPE

Every now and then I see a picture like this one and I feel a tear come to my eye. I feel so happy.

If you were one of the folks who works around me, you might not believe that, but it's true. If I were to make this editorial about me, I'd write how I am honored to play a small part in a fandom that is not only creative and generous and charitable, but also a fandom that shares the joy of Star Wars with the next generation. If I were crass I would make a crack about job security.

But this is way beyond me, and way beyond my co-workers here at Lucasfilm. These are exciting times for us and we look forward to what's coming next. Star Wars, however, is so big that this editorial is not about us—or about me—at all.

George Lucas created something timeless with his galactic tale of good and evil, but then you cemented that tale into an inseparable part of our culture. You, readers, brought Star Wars to children's hospitals and birthday parties, and charity fundraisers, and local parades. You prove every day that being part of a worldwide community of fans is not only about loving the movies and TV shows, but also about camaraderie on a large scale.

Thank you.

It's hope for Star Wars, but also the aggregate of good you do and the fun you create mean hope for a more delightful world.

Get in Tracks!



Mary Franklin

Editor,
Bantha Tracks



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comics, illustrations, news, stories, meeting information, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions to *Bantha Tracks* will not be returned.

Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact details, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, and created by the person submitting it.

Send electronic files to banthatracks@starwars.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29901, San Francisco, CA 94129

← Baby Leia
June Wilson,
with Charlotte
Householder.
Photo by Holly
Householder.



RED FIVE

CATHERINE TABER'S 5 FAVORITE STAR WARS BLASTERS

The voice of Padmé takes aim and selects her five favorite weapons from the *Star Wars* saga.



1

E-11 BLASTER RIFLE

Full disclosure: the majority of weapons I like are the ones that Leia and Padmé carried. The E-11 is included in that group. It packs plenty of kick. I like having options, and this blaster can go from semi-automatic to completely automatic to pulse fire. I could adjust it depending on the circumstances. It's well balanced, too. Because of the particular stock the E-11 has, it sits against your shoulder in a way that won't make you tip forward or fall backwards because of the recoil. The sturdy base absorbs the backlash and means you're not going to fly all over the place when you shoot it. It's a hefty gun, so this is especially important for petite people who want to use it. If you want to go into a fight with guns literally blazing and you've got a lot of enemies to take care of, I'd recommend the E-11.

2

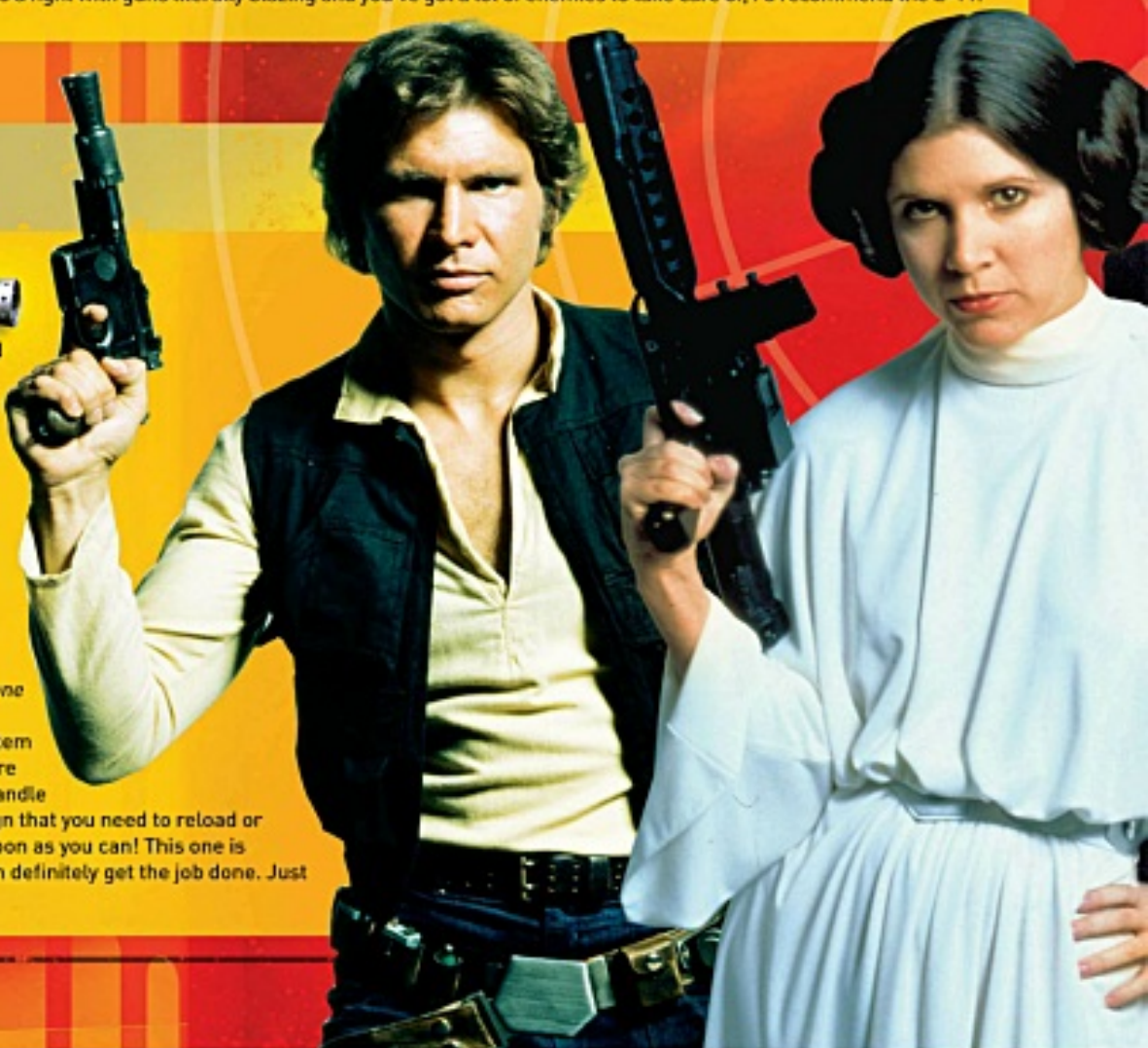
DL-44



This blaster kind of has to be on the list; it's what

Han Solo carried. I think one of the cool things about this particular firearm is that it has a lot of firepower, but it has the advantage of still being concealable. It's a strong weapon and perfect for bounty hunters. We saw freedom fighters use this blaster on Ryloth in *The Clone Wars*, too.

It even has a useful system that notifies you when you're almost out of ammo: the handle will vibrate, and that's a sign that you need to reload or get out of the firefight as soon as you can! This one is subtle and reliable, and can definitely get the job done. Just ask Greedo.



3 DDC DEFENDER



This blaster makes my list because it's good for folks of a smaller build, male or female. I first noticed this weapon when Princess Leia carried it. The DDC Defender fit her stature and she didn't look completely off balance while she was carrying it. It's made for smaller hands and it's lightweight. That doesn't take away from its power or accuracy though! You can even disassemble it. I think it's a bonus any time you can break down a bigger weapon and this blaster can be taken down to three pieces. There's no way you could keep it hidden when it's completely assembled, but if you take it apart and put each section into a different part of your bag or about your person, you might be able to get it past Imperial guards. I like that this gun isn't all business. It's known as a sporting blaster and has multiple purposes. The DDC Defender is made to be used for personal defense or for something more casual like target practice.

4 ELG-3A

This one is called the diplomat's blaster, which, besides being a fun name, is appropriate as Padmé uses this type of blaster frequently. It's light, so it's very easy to handle regardless of your size. It's incredibly accurate and has a longer barrel so you can shoot from a bit of a distance. Having range can be key to any fight. I think the coolest feature is that you have the ability to stun your foes. You can see this in *The Clone Wars* episode "Assassin," when Padmé stuns Aurra Sing. Like most politicians, she'd rather use diplomacy if she can, but it's not always the answer. I like to think of the stun feature as a higher level of diplomacy, you know, "aggressive negotiations!"

5 Q2

This palm-sized blaster is another favorite. I love that you can conceal it very easily. The fact that it's tiny and doesn't weigh much means you can tuck it away in a boot or inside a cloak. Though it doesn't have a ton of firepower, it's ideal for close-range fighting. It makes the perfect personal defense weapon for politicians.

As I always say, the most effective weapon is the one your enemy doesn't know you have. It's one reason why this blaster is perfect for someone like Padmé. No one is expecting her to be armed, but if she gets into a tricky position where she needs to take care of herself, she can pull this out. The Q2 is the sort of weapon I would own for personal defense; it's sleek and, as far as weapons go, it's pretty.

EXPANDED

Follow Catherine on Twitter at: @cattaliber

UNIVERSE



THE SAGA CONTINUES.... NEXT ISSUE!

100 EPISODES!

Insider celebrates *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*' 100th episode with an exclusive retrospective.

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We take a trip back to the early days of the Expanded Universe in the first of a new series!

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STAR WARS

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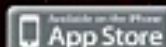
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